



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Israel

Outgoing Prime Minister Shamir officially handed over the reins of power to Yitzhaq Rabin on 14 July. In his address to the inaugural session of the newly elected Knesset, broadcast on Jerusalem TV, Rabin invited the Palestinian-Jordanian peace delegation to an "informal meeting" in Jerusalem "in order to create the proper atmosphere for a good partnership." Addressing Palestinians, Rabin said: "We are offering you the most fair and realistic offer we can put forth today: autonomy, self-rule, with its advantages and limitations. You will not get all that you want. We, too, may not get everything we want." Palestinian leaders reacted "cautiously" to the speech, according to Jerusalem International. Faysal al-Husayni said Rabin's speech showed a "change in attitude," but noted that his address was targeted at "the Israeli public" and that Palestinians had received no formal invitation to meet in Jerusalem.

Iraq

"Violent" clashes between the public and the Iraqi Army have been taking place near Saddam Husayn's hometown of Tikrit, approximately 100 km north of Baghdad, according to Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed. Citing a statement released by SAIRI (Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq), the radio said the clashes had begun on 10 July and were still taking place as of 13 July. Meanwhile, an article in BABIL said Kuwait's ties to Iraq are "similar to the relationship between a small brother and a big brother—they should be united." The article, entitled "Destiny and the Kuwaiti Issue," asked whether Kuwaitis were aware that "the issue of homelands cannot be extinguished in the hearts and conscience of people, regardless of time," according to INA.

Palestinian Affairs

The PLO has reportedly authorized Palestinian delegates to the peace talks to propose a top-level meeting with officials of the new Israeli Government "to boost the peace process and eliminate obstacles impeding Israeli-Palestinian relations," according to an "authoritative Palestinian source" cited by MENA. The source said any meeting between PLO officials and the Israeli Government would be held openly, and under "suitable international supervision," adding that the PLO has urged that the Israeli law prohibiting contacts with the PLO be revoked, MENA added.

Bangladesh

Burma has declined the government's proposal to hold talks on the repatriation of 270,000 Burmese Muslim refugees who have fled to Bangladesh, official sources disclosed to AFP. The refugees have alleged atrocities by Burmese troops, charges dismissed as "baseless" by the Rangoon government.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Delegation Said To Contact Israeli Government

NC1307134892 Cairo MENA in English 1102 GMT
13 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, July 13—(MENA)—An authoritative Palestinian source said the PLO instructed the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, to hold contacts with the new Israeli Government under Yitzhaq Rabin, on the feasibility of holding a top level meeting between the organization and the Israeli Government in order to boost the peace process and eliminate obstacles impeding Israeli-Palestinian relations.

The source said that any meeting between PLO officials and the Israeli Government would be based on international legitimacy and would be held openly under suitable international supervision.

The source said the PLO calls for cancelling the racist Israel law that prohibits any contacts between Israelis and the organization.

The Palestinian leadership is closely following up the outcome of the Israeli elections and efforts exerted towards forming a new government and the latter's political programme, the source added.

'Arafat Adviser Sha'th Remarks on Rabin Government

NC1307130092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT
12 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and member of the advisory committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, stated that Egypt's role is fundamental in restoring Arab solidarity and in giving the Palestinian and Arab negotiators momentum and strength to consolidate their stances during the negotiating process.

In an interview with MENA, Dr. Sha'th said that the Egyptian role is important in the coming phase as Egypt is the Arab state capable of restoring Arab solidarity and coordination. He praised Egypt's international relations, saying that Egypt could make use of these relations to obtain political and material support for the Palestinian people in the coming phase. He referred to Egypt's role in securing the arrival of material support for the inhabitants of the occupied Gaza Strip.

Answering a question regarding what observers described as the tone of pessimism that pervaded Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's speech before the Higher Palestinian Council on Education, Culture, and Science yesterday, Dr. Sha'th said that Yitzhaq Rabin's coming to power in Israel represents an opening toward the establishment of a transitional Palestinian government and later the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. He said that Rabin came to power as a result of the failure of the Likud bloc and consequently the

failure of the ideas of greater Israel. These ideas propagated by successive Likud governments failed because of the world changes and the continuation of the intifadah.

Dr. Sha'th warned against overoptimism about the Rabin government because this could lead, for example, to the United States easing its conditions for granting loan guarantees to Israel. He described Rabin as being from the old guard even though he is not from Likud. Rabin is also the first to play with the issue of the settlements by differentiating between so-called political settlements and security settlements.

Dr. Sha'th expressed his optimism about the coming phase of the Arab-Israeli talks, saying that the Rabin government will be more responsive regarding the participation of diaspora Palestinians in the peace talks. He said that this has been partially achieved through the participation of diaspora Palestinians in the committees on economic affairs and the refugee issue of the multi-lateral talks.

Concluding his statement to MENA, Dr. Sha'th said that the Palestinian intifadah is continuing and escalating. This intifadah will stop only after the establishment of a Palestinian government and Israel's withdrawal from all the Palestinian people's positions [mawaqi'].

PLO's al-Najjab Cited on Israeli Elections

NC1207122692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT
12 Jul 92

[Text] Tunis, 12 Jul (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab stated that one of the most important results of the Israeli elections was the fall of the Shamir government and policies. This confirms that Israeli society is open to current changes and responds to the Palestinian and Arab desire for peace.

In an interview with the MENA correspondent in Tunis, al-Najjab said that the Israeli election results revealed the increasing Israeli conviction that Shamir's program was not a peace program. He said that in order for Rabin to finalize the results of these elections, he needs a clear policy support the peace process. He said Rabin's current policy is vague, contrary to Shamir's clear anti-peace stand.

Al-Najjab said that a policy based on annexing land and evading international resolutions has no future, which was proven in the outcome of Shamir's policies. Israel must recognize the rights of the Palestinian and Arab peoples, as do the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Al-Najjab said that the PLO does not accept Rabin's statement that settlements are 'political or security' in nature. In addition, it does not accept Arab Jerusalem's exclusion from areas where settlement building will stop. He said that the controversial settlement issue must stop in accordance with international legitimacy and Security Council resolutions. Rabin's stand must clearly adhere

to Security Council Resolution 242, which deals with the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Al-Najjab discussed the autonomy project Rabin proposed, saying that Rabin is only discussing those elements he will exclude from this autonomy, such as supervision of the settlements, security, and foreign affairs. He is not discussing what he will give, in particular control over the territories.

The PLO, he continued, insists on having a transitional government with transitional powers. This government should be clearly based on the people, who will elect a legislative body whose duty would be to supervise and control. The government would supervise municipal elections, which would be part of its powers, not the Israeli occupation, as was stipulated in the election project proposed by the Israeli side.

Al-Najjab said that regardless of Rabin's efforts to form his government, the PLO adheres to the principles and goals of the peace process to implement the legitimate international resolutions that guarantee Israel's withdrawal from all Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem; the Palestinian people's right to self-determination; and peace and security for all countries in the region, including Israel.

The next round of peace talks, he added, may be held in August so the Rabin government has sufficient time to prepare its negotiating team. Preparations continue on the Palestinian team, he said, including the recent meeting in Amman, in which a comprehensive review of the bilateral and multilateral talks was made and gaps were defined.

'Ashrawi Views Rabin's Negotiations Invitation

JN1307172592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic
1558 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli talks, by Sa'id Mu'addi in Jerusalem; carried within the "With the Events" program—live]

[Text] [Mu'addi] In his speech seeking a vote of confidence from the Knesset podium, new Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin addressed a direct invitation to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to hold an unofficial round of negotiations in Jerusalem to prepare an appropriate climate and to exchange views as a first step toward establishing peace. What is your first reaction to this call?

['Ashrawi] Actually, we only quickly heard the unofficial translation of this speech. We need time. First, we need to read the official text. Second, we need to discuss and study this text and its dimensions. Afterward, we will comment on it. It is difficult now to adopt a direct position. What is important is that Mr. Rabin declared a readiness to intensify and accelerate the negotiations. As

for the venue, unofficial talks, and things like that, we will respond to such matters in due time after studying the speech in detail.

[Mu'addi] Dr. 'Ashrawi, through your initial listening to Rabin's speech and its basic lines, do you feel that there is a new tone?

['Ashrawi] Definitely, there is a change from the past tone of the Likud Party and the ideological rhetoric that characterized all of its statements and practices. This is very clear. But we have not seen any practical steps yet. We are awaiting the real test, which is the introduction of real change on the ground. Such change would prove goodwill in a practical manner.

[Mu'addi] Dr. 'Ashrawi, Mr. Rabin said that the new government urges the Palestinians to seize this opportunity, which could be the last. What is your comment about this statement?

['Ashrawi] We took this opportunity and joined the process, even before the establishment of the previous government of Israel. We entered the negotiating process even though the Israeli Government was extremist and inflicted the harshest penalties on the Palestinian people here. The Palestinian people, within their democratic institutions and political leadership, decided to join the process to establish peace in the region on the bases of international legitimacy and justice. We are still in the midst of this process and remain determined to achieve tangible results. The negative factor in this process was the Israeli intransigence and the Likud's rejection which precluded any progress. The Likud tried to undermine the bases and principles of the process, especially through repressive measures in the occupied territories; namely, the continuation and intensification of settlements.

[Mu'addi] Dr. 'Ashrawi, will the Palestinian side respond to Rabin's invitation to hold an unofficial meeting here in Jerusalem?

['Ashrawi] We will study this invitation. He addressed the invitation to the Jordanian and Palestinian sides, which requires comprehensive study, and we need to know the details of this invitation and what is going to be built on it. As for official negotiations, there is a term of reference and bases for these talks. Changing them would require approval from all concerned parties. As for this invitation in particular, we need further clarification and details, as well as a chance to study what exactly this new position entails.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan, one last question. Can we say that the spokeswoman for the Palestinian side is more optimistic now than she was yesterday?

['Ashrawi, laughing] I have never used the word optimistic or pessimistic. We are serious and have dealt with the process and its requirements in a positive and serious manner since the very beginning. We are ready to continue this seriousness, which is based on domestic Palestinian rights and requirements and international legitimacy, as well as what is needed to make this process successful in the interest of all peoples in the region.

[Mu'addi] Thank you very much, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian side.
[Ashrawi] Not at all. You are welcome.

Abu-Sharif Remarks on Rabin's 'New Ideas'

LD1407083792 Paris France-Inter Radio Network
in French 0700 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] The Israeli parliament approved Yitzhaq Rabin's government yesterday evening with 67 votes for and 53 against. The U.S. President, who congratulated the new prime minister for his speech for peace before the Knesset, decided to send his envoy, James Baker, to the Middle East.

Yesterday, Yitzhaq Rabin invited the Arab leaders to come to Jerusalem, while expressing his readiness to go himself to Damascus, Amman, and Beirut. Moreover, Rabin urged the Palestinians in the occupied territories to accept the autonomy that he proposed to them. Here is the reaction of Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, who Isabelle Dor contacted by telephone:

[Begin recording] [Abu-Sharif] Mr. Rabin's speech was very interesting, because there are some new ideas in it. But the speech is very poor at the same time, because Mr. Rabin totally forgot to mention the core of the problems of the Middle East. The essential problem is that of the occupation of the occupied territories since 1967.

[Dor] Would you be ready to accept Mr. Rabin's invitation to dialogue?

[Abu-Sharif] Unfortunately, Mr. Rabin did not mention the PLO. He named the Palestinians, and he invited King Husayn, President al-Asad, and President al-Hirawi, but he totally forgot the representatives of the Palestinians. [end recording]

Commentary Views Rabin's Peace Process Stance

LD1307225292 Algiers Voice of Palestine
in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] Brothers, in view of the fact that Rabin has paved the way for his new policy with statements that raised optimism regarding the ongoing peace process in the Middle East, he is invited now to confirm his political credibility by implementing his theory in practical terms and by steering it in accordance with the will of international legitimacy, which calls for the Palestinian people to be granted their national and political rights in their territories.

It is assumed that Rabin would start by demonstrating his good intentions regarding peace, not only by freezing the settlements—which he calls political—in the Palestinian West Bank and the Gaza Strip but by freezing settlements completely and by giving utmost attention to Palestinian human rights to convince the Palestinian

people in and outside the occupied territories and all Arabs of the new reality, namely, peaceful coexistence and stability in the region.

But Palestinians and Arabs would not be convinced that there would be peace if Rabin and his party team's statements supported and prepared for peace, while they exercised an iron fist policy to repress the Palestinian people and drown Palestinian camps, towns and villages in blood. Settlers have to be checked, and the terror waged by the occupation troops and settlers against the unarmed Palestinian people must be stopped.

What is certain, brothers, is that the Palestinian intifadah was the result of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and the usurpation of Palestinian national and political rights. Naturally, the intifadah will only end with the departure of the occupation forces. Anything else is a figment of imagination. Therefore, we urge the United States, in its capacity as a cosponsor—along with the former Soviet Union—of the peace talks, to make rigorous efforts to make Rabin submit to political reality in dealing with international legitimacy and to prove his good intention by moving toward a just and lasting peace to get the region out of its position as a hotbed of international tension. [passage omitted]

Faction Representatives Hail Fatah-Hamas Pact

JN1207102192 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
12 Jul 92 pp 1,5

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Representatives of Palestinian factions in Jordan Saturday welcomed an agreement reached between secular Fatah and Islamist Hamas in the occupied territories to end violence between their supporters and expressed hope that the accord would be respected by all sides concerned.

"We are committed to this agreement and hope that it will hold," said Ibrahim Ghawshah, the Hamas representative in Amman, adding that the decision was reached by "the actual leadership of Hamas in Palestine" following a joint Fatah-Hamas statement issued in Amman over the weekend and a meeting in the occupied Gaza Strip Friday.

Palestinian analysts said the Amman communique represented the voice of Fatah and Hamas supporters in the diaspora while the final decision to seek reconciliation or otherwise rested with their leaderships in the occupied territories as indicated by Mr. Ghawshah.

No senior Fatah official was available for comment in Amman, but sources from the movement pointed out that the group was most anxious to ensure that inter-Palestinian violence ended.

The agreement, worked out by a broad spectrum of Palestinian and Israeli Arab personalities, including Palestinian peace negotiators, was announced late Friday after extended talks.

Informed sources said in Amman that several of those attending the meeting undertook to act as "guarantors" for the agreement. These include 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, an Israeli Arab member of parliament, Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, head of Arab councils in Israel, Shaykh Ra'id Salamah, a prominent Islamic mayor, and Faysal al-Husayni and Sa'ib 'Urayqat, leader and member respectively of the Palestinian delegation to peace talks with Israel, the sources said.

Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, led the overall mediation committee to the meeting, which was held at the residence of 'Ali Abu-Shaba'an in the occupied Gaza Strip.

'Abd-al-Rahman Hamad signed for Fatah while signing on behalf of Hamas were Mahmud al-Dahar and 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi.

The agreement announced "an immediate end to all internal fighting and clashes between Fatah and Hamas ... a national union among Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and everywhere."

"Hamas, Fatah and the other parties agreed to transmit the good news to our people to urge them to fulfil the document," it said.

"If this agreement does not hold, it will reduce our credibility as negotiators a great deal," Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi was quoted as saying by the Associated Press. "I would feel our feet are not on the ground."

Observers noted that ending inter-Palestinian violence in the occupied territories and presenting a united Palestinian front were an essential component in the peace talks since Palestinian differences were always vulnerable to be exploited by Israel.

Inter-Palestinian violence, mainly between Fatah, the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) group, and Hamas, which opposes peace talks with Israel, had escalated against the backdrop of the election victory of Israel's Labour Party, seen as relatively moderate and leaning towards a negotiated settlement with the Palestinians.

PLO leaders have said that Hamas was worried that prospects for peace with a territorial compromise had been boosted with the Labour victory.

While Fatah is committed to a negotiated solution with Israel, Hamas, an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, rejects any dealings with or recognition of the Jewish state and calls for the "total liberation of Palestine."

Saji Salamah of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) expressed hope that the Fatah-Hamas accord would pave the way for settling all differences among Palestinian groups.

"We believe that all differences, political and otherwise, should be solved through democratic dialogue," Mr. Salamah told the Jordan Times. "We hope that both sides (Fatah and Hamas) would remain committed to the agreement, which, hopefully, would also pave the way for dialogue among all Palestinian groups and increased resistance against Israel."

No comment was immediately available from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which opposes the peace process on the ground that the negotiating terms available to the Palestinians are not favourable to the Palestinian cause. But Hamas sources told the Jordan Times that the PFLP had played a "positive role" in working out Friday's Fatah-Hamas agreement.

Columnists in Jordanian newspapers as well as dailies based in the occupied territories have been calling on the feuding groups to end their violent hostilities and seek to settle their differences.

As'ad 'Abd-al-Rahman, a member of the Palestine National Council (PNC), appeared to summarise the approach in a column in Saturday's *Al-Dustur*.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman said that all Palestinian factions, regardless of their political or ideological leanings, had a responsibility towards ending factional disputes for the sake of the Palestinian people. The leaders of the various factions should shoulder the blame for the problem in the same way they are taking credit for the gains of the 55-month-old intifadah, he wrote.

'Arafat on Intifadah's 56th Month, Peace Process

LD1107010692 *Algiers Voice of Palestine*
in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Brothers: Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the Palestinian state and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, addressed a message to the masses of our Palestinian people inside the occupied land and in the diaspora marking the blessed intifadah's 56th month. Brothers, here now follows the full text of the message delivered by Abu-'Ammar himself:

In the name of God, the Compassionate, and the Merciful: Hold fast all together. [Koranic verse] O masses of the blessed people's intifadah; O heroes of the sacred revolution of stones; O militants, architects of the epic of the heroic resistance inside beloved Palestine; O militants who are being chased in the mountains, rivers of our beloved country; O those who remain steadfast in front of the bayonets of the enemy; you are creating the dawn of freedom for your great people. O those who are mobilized inside the camps, towns, and villages of the south, the Muslim and militant ones. O masses of our

militant people inside the homeland, in the exiles, and the diaspora. O masses of our great Arab nation.

At the outset of this day, our militant intifadah embarks on its 56th month, continuing its march of militancy and liberty by providing an excellent human and collective contribution and countless sacrifices for the sake of our fundamental and first goal: to end the Israeli occupation from our land and sacred places and to achieve the Palestinian national independence [words indistinct] of our people and nation on the walls, the minarets, and churches of Jerusalem.

Brothers and beloved ones, you all gave this magnificent mass sacrifice. Sons of my great people, you gave to humanity and to your coming generations a distinguished Palestinian example of resisting occupation with all that it carries in the way of injustice, tyranny, and oppression of human rights and values. This example shall become a unique militant experiment that had become (?the heart) on which the people—all the people and their groups—are dependent within a solid unity; that is, (?required) by the men, women, and children whose hearts are filled with faith. They are the heroes of the patient ones who will keep faith until we achieve liberation, deliverance, and the occupation's defeat. We will confront the task of foiling its aims and policy in the entire area and impose new realities with our blessed martyrs' blood, our brave fighters' wounds, and our steadfast combatants' sacrifices [words indistinct] our patient prisoners and detainees [words indistinct].

Yes, yes, yes, brothers and beloved ones. It is the truth that is being said again and again: that our revolution is the longest patriotic revolution in contemporary human history. In this truth, there is nothing that calls for despair and hopelessness. Indeed, it contains all that calls for pride and honor and the ability of our Palestinian people. They believe in remaining steadfast and putting up resistance and in giving enormous sacrifices.

Almighty God, the creator, bestowed on the people of Jerusalem and its neighborhood the ability to resist and to destroy the waves of invasion and occupation in successive periods.

We have a capability and a capacity to direct and correct the wrong courses of events and to confront the challenges, despite all the impediments, obstacles, stabs, the siege, pain, hunger, and suffering.

The Israeli election campaign ended last month with results that we all have seen. Your brothers in the eternal legend of Beirut in 1984 succeeded in bringing down Begin and forced him into isolation in his home that overlooks the arena of his crime and shame in Dayr Yasin. His crime was against the unarmed civilians from among the sons of our people and against your blessed, courageous intifadah. His crime was against the intifadah's actions, (?impact), meanings, connotations, gestures, and the distinguished political performance in the new world order's political conferences in Madrid,

Washington, Moscow, and others. Shamir was overthrown without any regret, after he attempted to run away in despair. The elections toppled him and brought him down with his party. Blood has won over the sword. [repeats sentence three times]

Deep belief won over bloody oppression. [sentence repeated twice] Their crimes broke the solid and firm rock of our people's will. Our masses will continue in their genuine jihad until the occupation is squashed; our land and sanctities are cleansed from the racist herds of settlers; and our national independence is achieved on our Palestinian land, which we are honored that it has been blessed by the three divine religions. [passage omitted]

And here is Rabin forming his government these days and citing more than one indication that his speech to reach power is one thing, and his speech while he has the power is quite a different thing.

Shamir used to be the symbol of occupation and the symbol of aggression. Rabin has now become the symbol of occupation and aggression. It was his party that annexed Jerusalem and the Golan Heights and committed many crimes against our people, land, and sanctities. We say to him and to his forthcoming government: Withdraw your army, the army of occupation; withdraw your settlers and their weapons out of our homes, land, and sanctities so that we will have the opportunity to effect just peace that is based on public recognition of our legitimate national political rights given to us by international legality through the Security Council's and UN's resolutions.

If the implementation does, however, need a mechanism and a suitable program, we, as an Arab nation, agreed—and the world supported us—to convene the peace conference based on international legality and resolution; the documents presented by the conference's sponsors; and the positive and constructive positions that our Palestinian delegation and the rest of the fraternal Arab delegation adopted during this conference, be it in Madrid, Washington, or other capitals. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, our real battle started with Rabin and his government before he even formed it and its policies. Rabin's figures move in the dark to drive a wedge—if not wedges—between the Arab parties participating in the peace conference. I hereby call on all Arab brothers, the people, the governments, and the leaders, to go hand in hand with all sincerity and through a frank and clear dialogue to thwart the Israeli enemy's conspiracies and its continued and malicious attempts and policies of (?insinuation and misleading by favoring one party and then dealing with another).

We would like to say to Rabin frankly and publicly: land for peace, and implementing UN Resolutions 242 and 338 mean withdrawing from all Arab occupied land, at their forefront holy Jerusalem; achieving the national

political rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with international resolutions; and the provision of peace for all in the region.

Does this not form the basis for peace? Is this not Bush's initiative? All these points together form the pillars of peace—not the maneuvers applied around them, neglecting them, or by concluding separate bargains here and there by increasing occupation, oppression, and injustice.

Therefore, Rabin's role [word indistinct] or de Klerk's role of the insane Zionist role regarding the land of greater Israel, which is unrealistic, does not conform with development and the course of history. Which course would Rabin choose?

Let us say that our people, our revolution, and our intifadah are ready to face the eventualities. One arm carries the olive branch while the other arm throws stones and carries the gun. One arm stretches for peace while the other arm defends Jerusalem, al-Aqsa mosque, [word indistinct] the first of the two qiblahs and the third of the two holy mosques. [passage omitted]

Brothers, the fingers of occupation were not content with plotting behind the scene against [words indistinct]; this scheming also moves at the internal level. With intelligence and malice they stirred tragic events that are unacceptable, unjustified, and illogical inside the valiant Gaza, the militant and hungry Gaza. Inside its brave Strip and inside its steadfast camps, we are in dire need for closing the ranks; consolidating every possible effort; mobilizing every strength; raising every fist; and uniting all the people to confront the occupation and the challenges of the coming phase as represented by the last weeks before the end of the peace process phase during its first planned year, starting with the transitional phase. As you are aware, these are the decisive weeks.

During this particular time, the national and religious duty, the general interest and the national supreme interest to liberate the homeland warrant us to put an end to all differences, remove all misunderstanding, and deal with all views and opinions with the democratic method with which we are proud. In our national council we have enough room for conviction and direction. We find in the constructive dialogue enough consent and agreement. Let everybody express their grievances. Let each side, each group, and each person express their view and conviction. Let us all seek arbitration from democracy and rule of counsel. Let us respect the opinion of the majority and respect that of the minority. [passage omitted]

Brothers, all my brothers inside the steadfast Gaza, despite the siege and hunger; brothers, all my brothers in the West Bank and Jerusalem, in Galilee, and Upper Galilee and Negev: We are going through the phase of defining a planned vision of matters inside our occupied land.

Rabin and Shamir said that we do not want the people of Gaza. We would like to tell them the people of Gaza, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and Jerusalem, at their forefront, do not want you and do not want [words indistinct]. During these crucial weeks, there is no room for any differences within our internal arena. We are all believers; all the people of Palestine are believers, not only its Muslims but its Christians. All factions are believers. We are all nationalists and militants against the occupation. We are all in the same trench. There is no room nor time for bargaining on the faith or the national level. Anyone who tries to bargain over these matters only exposes himself. Religion belongs to God Almighty while the land belongs to us all. The people, all of the people, should form a solid unity to achieve our first goal: ending the occupation and achieving liberation and independence to make time for free departure towards realizing the supreme and noble aims that God bequeathed to our people and our region by saying that you are the best of people evolved for mankind. Enjoy what is right and forbid what is wrong.

Through faith, action, militancy, and jihad; through the holy place of the prophet Muhammad, God's prayers and peace be upon him; through Jesus Christ, peace be upon him; and through the blessed land that God blessed people with, we will be liberated. [passage omitted]

Brothers and beloved ones, this new situation requires more vigilance and caution; it requires more scrutiny of the plans and their architects; it requires more readiness to contribute; and it requires more unity, cohesion, and solidarity. On this occasion, I would like to appeal to everybody.

All my brothers in the Palestinian Liberation Movement; the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; in [words indistinct]; and in all other organizations, groupings, and national forces should perform their religious and national duty to consecrate national unity and dialogue instead of dispute proceeding from our democracy of which we are proud.

The international community, brothers and beloved ones, like the parties to the conflict and the new Israeli leadership in particular, know the conditions under which the peace process might progress:

First: An end to settling and all sorts of settlements without any further interpretation or unacceptable loopholes.

Second: Providing security, as well as a political, social, and psychological atmosphere that would enable the international community—particularly the sponsors of the peace conference—to carry out their moral duty to protect the Palestinian people and ensure implementing assurances for the Palestinian people, especially by holding the general Palestinian legislative elections under international auspices, which requires an immediate end to the iron-fist policy, the evacuation of camps

of mass detention, and granting national independence for our land and our Jerusalem as a final act.

Brothers and beloved ones, in a few days two years will have passed since the eruption of the Gulf crisis and the tyranny of a destructive war that exhausted great political efforts and enormous economic and military capabilities. It left a clear gap in the balances of confrontation and equilibrium in the Gulf and the Middle East. It is tangibly clear that this war and crisis are no longer confined to the framework for which they erupted. The embargo against Iraq and against the fraternal people of Iraq continues. Furthermore, there is an attempt to tear apart the unity of the Iraqi people. Likewise, the same thing is being applied against Libya and against its brotherly people, as they face attempts of sanctions and siege. Nonetheless, the Arab situation has not improved, regrettably.

Arab relations need more solidarity and the closing of ranks to face up to these dangers and challenges they are facing in light of the new world order that deals in double standards. One standard favors Israel, and the other standard is against the Arabs. It is trying to usurp the resources of our Arab nation. Its latest attempt was to impose capitalist taxation on oil in favor of industrialized states while the opposite should have happened.

The opposite policy would benefit people of the Third World; yes, it would have done so, all of which warrants reviewing the situation in the whole Arab world and achieving a better solution with minimum damage. We stress our resolve to continue the action for the provision of the positive atmosphere that we are trying to achieve with the help of our Arab brothers for the sake of our future and the future of our generations, especially after the developments we are facing during the new situation.

During this situation, we need the support and backing of all our Arab brothers for the sake of Palestine and the Arab occupied territories and for the sake of holy Jerusalem. We promise the Arab nation that we will continue the path and the march through the revolution and the blessed intifadah until victory is achieved, God willing, until Jerusalem is liberated, God willing. [passage omitted]

Brothers, beloved ones, the unseen, probable, and expected development warrant us all to escalate forms of action, to develop its content and preserve the international and positive gains that we achieved thanks to our distinguished and exceptional role played during the rounds of the peace conference since the first conference in Madrid up until this very day.

We should not forget in this respect the positive European position and the role of the sponsors of the conference, Japan, and our brothers members of the Non-aligned Movement.

O Brothers and beloved ones; O my folk of all my folk: I am at this important and fateful juncture calling on you to protect and to bolster the Palestinian national unity;

the strong weapon [words indistinct]; to escalate the daily confrontations with the occupation and its military machine; to face up to its armed gangs of settlers who are considered part of the occupation's military force; to affirm daily the intifadah's aims in front of the international community and in front of the Israeli society in particular, given the fact that the intifadah has been the longest and the most magnificent resistance against any occupation in the modern era with the aim of establishing lasting and comprehensive peace. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Sends Written Message to Cuba's Castro

LD1207081592 *Algiers Voice of Palestine*
in Arabic 1702 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] Yesterday, brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] sent a written message to Cuban President Fidel Castro. Brother Amin al-Hindi, a Fatah Revolutionary Council member and Brother Abu-'Ammar's special envoy, delivered the message during an official meeting with the ambassador of the State of Palestine in Cuba present.

During the meeting, President Castro expressed his deep thanks to brother Abu-'Ammar for his concern and personal interest in developing Palestinian-Cuban relations. He emphasized the firmness of Cuba's principled support for the just struggle that the Palestinian people wage under the leadership of the PLO until it achieves the complete fulfillment of its aims: a return to the homeland; self-determination; and building an independent Palestinian state.

Long-Term Loan of \$1 Billion to Iraq Denied

NC1307134292 *Cairo MENA in Arabic* 1226 GMT
13 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the Fatah Movement's representative in Cairo, denied a report published today that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat promised to extend a long-term loan of \$1 billion to assist Iraq.

Al-Qidrah said the report is groundless, observing that the PLO is not so rich that it can afford to lend substantial amounts of money on a long-term basis. In fact, the PLO suffers from financial difficulties due to its obligations to support the Palestinians living in the occupied territories. He noted that the PLO has financial obligations toward the intifadah and that Arab financial support to the PLO ceased at the time of the Gulf war.

UNLU Issues Addendum to Call No. 84

LD1307215892 *Algiers Voice of Palestine*
in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising [UNLU] issued an addendum to Call No. 84, stressing its commendation of the benevolent efforts of the national and popular forces and operatives in the West Bank and

Gaza Strip. The addendum also cites the efforts of brothers inside the green line that led to an agreement on ending hostilities between brothers in the Fatah and Hamas movements. UNLU declares its absolute support for that agreement; its firm demand for the immediate ending of all warring and combat operations; and for the party breaching the agreement to bear full responsibility for the consequences.

In the addendum to Call No. 84, which was issued yesterday [as heard], the UNLU adds that differences of views on the position regarding the political process and what these differences represent regarding firm devotion toward the protection of Palestinian national achievements make it imperative for all national and Islamic forces to adhere strictly to the moral codes of national

action and the principles of the democratic process and to be alert to the dangers of being sidetracked to peripheral problems.

The UNLU asks all sides to adhere to the course of democratic dialogue; to respect pluralism; and to seek the judgment of the masses in resolving political differences, away from impulsively resorting to force, whims of extremism, and inciting sedition among the sons of the same people. The UNLU calls for the expeditious issuing of a pact of honor [mithaq al-Sharaf], which would ensure the prohibition of fighting and resorting to violence within the national ranks, and to convict whoever contravenes such a pact of national treason. The UNLU calls for continuing dialogue between the Fatah and Hamas movements and for setting up a field follow-up committee composed of all detachments to ensure adherence to the agreement and to monitor its implementation.

Algeria

Consultations on Forming Government Continue

LD1307132592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] Prime Minister designate Belaid Abdesselam is continuing his consultations prior to forming a government, but he has not given a date for the announcement of the government.

Citing a confirmed source, APS says that Belaid Abdesselam today received Abdelhak Benhamouda, secretary general of the Algerian workers federation [UGTA]. The source gave no details.

Outgoing Prime Minister Comments

LD1307193292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Report by unidentified announcer on Prime Minister-designate Belaid Abdesselam continuing consultations of formation of new government, including recorded interview with Belaid Abdesselam by unidentified radio correspondent outside Government House on 13 July, and recorded remarks by former Prime Minister Ghazali, date and place not given]

[Text] For the sixth day running since his appointment as prime minister in replacement of Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghazali, Mr. Belaid Abdesselam continues his consultations to choose members of his government in complete secrecy. Contrary to rumor, Mr. Belaid Abdesselam has not fixed any date for announcing the names of his government members, official sources said today.

A ceremony was held this evening at the prime ministry for the handover of tasks between Prime Minister-designate Mr. Belaid Abdesselam, and outgoing prime minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali. Radio correspondent Ahmed Khidah came close to Prime Minister Belaid Abdesselam when the latter was leaving Government House, hence this dialogue:

[Unidentified correspondent] When are we going to know the new government members?

[Abdesselam] Not yet, I personally do not know yet.

[Correspondent] Soon?

[Abdesselam] I am trying to form the government as soon as possible, but without.... I prefer...

[Correspondent, interrupting] Before the end of this week, possibly?

[Abdesselam] I do not know, I say neither the beginning nor the end of the week. I am in a position which is a little special because I was a little remote from the apparatus and I must obtain some information and ascertain before making my choice.

[Correspondent] New government means new policy; what is your comment on this?

[Abdesselam] We will see. When things are finished we will see what is new and what is old.

[Announcer] Here are the impressions of outgoing Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali:

[Ghozali] As I have had the honor of heading the Government of Algeria, I have today the honor of handing over the trust to a brother—many a brother is not the son of your mother. I am reassured to hand over the trust to this man, and I congratulate the Algerian people, Algerian men and women.

[Correspondent] Rumors have it that you are bracing yourself for new tasks?

[Ghozali] These are rumors that have been about for long years. I have never planned ahead. When a task comes along, one would not refuse it out of love of the homeland.

FIS Trial Adjourns; Ghazali Summoned as Witness

LD1307104292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1000 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Excerpts] At 1045 hours, the session of the trial of the Islamic Salvation Front leaders resumed, according to reports from our colleagues from the second channel.

The source added that the military public prosecutor has decided to summon other witnesses, among them [former Prime Minister] Sid Ahmed Ghazali, Abdelaziz Belkhadem [former speaker of People's National Assembly], and Abdelhamid Mehri [National Liberation Front secretary general]. [passage omitted: yesterday's proceedings]

Before continuing to read the news, I would like to interrupt you, as the radio a short while ago contacted our mission at the Blida Court. The mission gave us the latest news, which says that the trial has been adjourned until tomorrow. This adjournment came only minutes after today's resumption, as you stated earlier. The president of the Blida Military Court also announced that the Court has decided to summon new witnesses, a matter which particularly relates to the demands of the defendants and the defense. [passage omitted] These measures were taken by the Court in accordance with the authorization vested in it in accordance with Article 152 of the Military Penal Code, and Article 286 of the Criminal Procedural Law.

Ghozali Denies Summons; Willing To Appear

LD1407084792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 0600 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Always concerning the trial of Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders, colleague Ahmed Khida, who yesterday attended the handing over of responsibilities between the new the resigned prime ministers, took the

opportunity to approach [former Prime Minister] Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghazali, and asked him whether he had received a summons from the military court to give evidence in the case of the FIS leaders. Ghazali answered by saying:

[Begin Ghazali recording] I have not yet received any summons in this respect, but if there was a summons, I said long ago, I would be prepared to attend. [end recording]

The FIS defense lawyers stated yesterday evening that they will continue to boycott the trial, bearing in mind that they have always called for summoning Mr. Ghazali.

The defense corps said that summoning Mr. Ghazali will in itself require the adjournment of the trial.

Egypt

Leaders, Others React To New Israeli Government

Mubarak Greets Israel's Rabin

NC1407132292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1129 GMT
14 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has expressed the hope that the coming months will witness energetic activity to revive the peace process and place it in a proper framework, ensuring that it will achieve its objectives as soon as possible, particularly a momentous historic reconciliation between Israel and all its Arab neighbors and an end to antipeace practices, which deepen the conflict and create violence and hatred.

This came in a cable of congratulations today that President Mubarak sent to Yitzhaq Rabin, Israeli prime minister and Labor Party leader, on the occasion of the formation of the new Israeli Government.

The text of President Mubarak's cable to Israeli Prime Minister Rabin follows:

It pleases me to send you and your colleagues sincere congratulations on the occasion of the formation of the new government in Israel after you won the confidence of the people in the recent elections and got a popular mandate to pursue policies that promote the establishment of comprehensive peace in the region and permit your country to contribute tangibly to the achievement of stability and security for all peoples in the region.

The forces that share your belief in the cause of a just peace based on respect for rights and mutual commitments hope that the coming months will witness energetic activity to revive the peace process and place it in a proper framework, ensuring that it will achieve its objectives as soon as possible, especially the momentous historic reconciliation between Israel and all its Arab

neighbors and an end to antipeace practices, which deepen the conflict and create violence and hatred.

Once again, I extend my congratulations to you and express my best wishes that you will succeed in the great task that has been placed on your shoulders in overcoming the challenges you will face.

Musa Hails Rabin Knesset Speech

NC1407052692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2216 GMT
13 Jul 92

[Text] United Nations, 13 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that it is important for the new Israeli Government to adhere to the land-for-peace principle.

Commenting here tonight on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement to the Knesset today, Musa said what is really important is commitment to the basics of peace: Land in exchange for peace, the provisions of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the basic documents of the Madrid process.

He added that what he has heard shows a fine willingness to resume the peace process on new and objective premises that actually aim to establish a just and lasting peace. This, he said, constitutes some factors that encourage optimism.

Concerning Rabin's call to the Israeli people to free themselves from the fear of isolation, which is not in harmony with the post-cold war world, the Egyptian foreign minister said: I support Prime Minister Rabin's call to abandon hesitation in the peace process and not be afraid of the future as long as this future is based on a just peace.

'Amr Musa said he also supports Rabin's remarks on the cold war, particularly as the end of the cold war provides a new foundation for international relations. He added that in light of these new relations, Israel must change the policy to which former Prime Minister Shamir used to cling, which threatened the peace process and hindered progress.

Musa on Hopes, Expectations

NC1307155392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1258 GMT
13 Jul 92

[Text] Beirut, 13 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has called on new Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to act according to the logic of the 21st century, which confirms that occupation can produce nothing and that denying the Palestinian people's rights cannot lead to anything positive. Likewise, the continued occupation of the Golan will lead to disaster and the continuing disturbances in the south of Lebanon are unacceptable and impermissible.

In an interview with the Lebanese paper AL-ANWAR published today, Musa said that success in the Middle East peace process would lead to great changes. Failure,

however, would produce grave consequences. He added that the situation in the Middle East has not yet stabilized, and that caution must be exercised during the current international state of flux and fluidity.

Musa explained that the Middle East region will not experience stability as long as the Palestinian problem remains unsolved, the Golan remains occupied, southern Lebanon experiences disturbances, and security threats continue in the Gulf region. He said that this places a heavy responsibility on Egypt, the largest country in the region and one that has played a major historical role.

He explained that Egypt's Arab policy works to prevent deterioration and adopt constructive stands to achieve a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian problem, which Egypt considers the "essence of regional problems." He said: We understand the situation in the region very well. We have dealt with it in various ways for the past 40 or 50 years. Our dialogue with the United States, Europe, and the international community is broad and characterized by a clarity and frankness that serves Arab interests.

Asked about his views on the strategic change that took place in Israel following the downfall of Yitzhaq Shamir's Likud Party in the recent elections and its potential influence on the region, Musa said that this might provide hope for an acceptable and fair solution in the Middle East.

In this regard, Musa strongly criticized the position of Shamir's Likud government, describing it as "inconsistent with and contrary to the times." He said that the former Likud government worked to exclude the Middle East and the Palestinian issue from the trend of international settlements, such as in the Far East and Central America. Likud's split from the international process led to its downfall and the failure of its policies, because no one in the United States, Europe, the Arab countries, or the rest of the world believed in it. The peace process will enter a serious stage with the formation of a new Israeli Government following the Israeli vote for peace.

The Egyptian foreign minister expressed his hope that Israeli participation in the coming round will promote the peace process. There is some optimism, he said, but it is not complete.

Musa praised the U.S. role in the Middle East peace process, and said that the U.S. position on the loan guarantees and the settlements indicates that there will be real progress toward peace. He also praised the position of the Arab participants, saying they are very serious about the need to achieve a peaceful and just solution based on UN Security Council Resolution 242 and encompassing security, territory, rights, refugees, and everything else.

Musa termed the situation in the Gulf a special situation. We are still suffering the consequences of the Gulf war and Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, which caused a major

security tremor. Musa said that the Damascus Declaration does not violate the Arab League Charter or the Arab treaties. It is an attempt to develop cooperation and reinforce mutual respect.

Musa called for rationalizing the Arab system so that it is based on sound inter-Arab relations characterized by frankness, clarity, and harmony. He described Egyptian-Lebanese relations as close, friendly, and of benefit to both peoples. He said that the Egyptian role in Lebanon is based on several fundamental elements, most importantly noninterference in its internal affairs. Egypt also continues to defend and support Lebanon against anything that undermines its sovereignty or its territorial integrity. Based on this position, he termed Egypt's support for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, calling for Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon, as "total and unlimited."

Arab Source Comments on Rabin Speech

NC1407144792 Cairo MENA in English 1353 GMT
14 Jul 92

[Text] July 14 (MENA)—The statement made by new Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the Knesset yesterday was an attempt to influence world public opinion in general and the European and American in particular and to incite that the Arabs are not psychologically or politically qualified to surmount their fears and doubts towards Israel, according to a responsible Arab source who spoke on conditions of anonymity.

The source added that the context of Rabin's statement asserted these doubts, as his words showed that he never intended, even for a moment to give up one inch of the occupied territories or to allow eventually reaching an autonomy in the occupied Arab territories that would guarantee the rights of the Palestinians according to the international law and rules of justice.

The source said that Rabin deceived the Arabs, the United States and even the entire world over the past year since the holding of the Madrid conference, adding that this does not mean that Rabin's statement has not opened a door for a new phase of negotiations away from excitement, accusations and clashes.

The source said that the content of Rabin's statement makes the Arabs face a number of options. They have to determine their stance whether regarding the upcoming negotiations. [as received]

Cooperation among themselves or the Arab priorities, the source added. [as received]

The source pointed out that they have to determine their aims before they respond to Rabin's call.

Egyptian Official Comments

NC1307171692 Paris AFP in English 1357 GMT
13 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, July 13 (AFP)—Israel's Arab partners in Middle East peace talks must solve potentially explosive disputes ahead of the next round of talks planned in Rome, a senior Egyptian official said Monday.

The official, who declined to be identified, said the formation of a Labor-led government in Israel by Yitzhaq Rabin had exacerbated disagreements among Arab parties concerning the peace process. [passage omitted]

Divisions over strategy exist among Palestinians, and between the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Jordan and Syria, the official said.

Rabin's pledge to secure an agreement on an interim period of autonomy for Palestinians within 12 months risks driving a wedge between the PLO and Syria, the official said.

Damascus has warned that any attempts by Rabin to secure a separate peace with any one party would undermine the peace process. Syria fears that Israel may separate an agreement over the Golan Heights, seized in 1967, from a Palestinian accord. The PLO seeks to prevent a stalemate over the Golan from impeding a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian problem. [passage omitted]

Rabin 'Intentions' Viewed

NC1307182792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Mahmud Marzuq commentary entitled: "Three Issues Facing Rabin"]

[Excerpts] With the formation of the new Israeli Government, the region has geared up to resume the peace process, interrupted pending the outcome of Israeli elections. Signaling their awareness of the significance of the new phase, the foreign ministers of the Arab cordon states have decided to meet in Damascus by the end of this month to discuss the peace process, its prospects, and the Israeli policy toward it, in light of Yitzhaq Rabin's accession to power. The meeting may prove essential in formulating a clear Arabic position on the peace process. [passage omitted]

Labor Party policy and its true intentions toward peace and surmounting the obstacles facing the Arab-Israeli conflict can be assessed in light of three issues: Its position on south Lebanon and toward the occupied Arab territories, and its willingness to negotiate with all the Palestinians.

The Labor Party position on south Lebanon will be easy to discern because it offers little room for maneuver. If it maintains the Likud policy of continuing occupation of the Lebanese south and attacks on its villages and

inhabitants, this will be a clear indication of its future intentions. We certainly do not expect Rabin to issue immediate orders to withdraw from south Lebanon, although withdrawal must happen some time. We expect the Labor Party to at least take measures to relieve the tension in south Lebanon, to discontinue aggressive operations, and to start substantial discussions with the Lebanese Government during the coming peace talks in Rome with a view to reaching a solution that would end the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon and establish the authority of the Lebanese Government there. The situation in south Lebanon is an important indicator that the hopes the Labor Party win in Israel has generated are justified.

As for the situation in the occupied Arab territories, it is important to see how the Labor Party will deal with conditions there. If the Labor Party truly wishes to calm the situation in the territories and make the peace process work, it must formulate new methods of dealing with their inhabitants. The Labor Party should refrain from such Likud practices—encouraged by Yitzhaq Shamir—as eviction, confiscation, and blowing up houses. The Labor Party should take a new position matching its declared political policy. Its credibility will be damaged if it continues to follow the Likud example in the territories. Labor should not invoke the security of Israel to justify arbitrary measures in the territories; Shamir has already worn out this pretext.

We now turn to the issue of negotiating with the Palestinian side. The Likud practice of limiting the negotiations to Palestinians living inside the homeland—barring those living in Jerusalem—is senseless. Everyone is curious to see what the Labor Party will do in this situation that Likud has created by declaring a law banning contacts with Palestinians living abroad. The Labor Party is now required, as a goodwill gesture, to cancel the Likud-inspired law, opening the door on talks with every Palestinian without discrimination. This alone would be enough to vindicate Labor Party slogans raised during the election campaign.

These three issues pose a real test for the Labor Party and its seriousness about its declared intentions, more so than public announcements on the halting of new settlements for one year, willingness to discuss withdrawal from some occupied territories, or self-government for the Palestinians, all of which can just be opening negotiating positions. To declare your intentions is one thing, but to live up to these intentions through practical measures is another. The Arab side knows this. It wants to ascertain the Israeli position before it assumes its own practical positions in response to mere statements. [passage omitted]

Libya, Sudan, Iran Accused of Arming Islamists

NC1407104792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1015 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Egyptian Agriculture Minister Yusuf Wali has accused Libya, Sudan, and Iran of funding the purchase

of arms by Egyptian fundamentalists. He stressed that the security forces are hunting down gun runners and that the situation in Asyut has returned to normal. The Egyptian minister's statement was published in the first edition of the newspaper *al-JUMHURIYAH* but was censored from the second edition.

President Mubarak Telephones Saudi King Fahd

NC1307173692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1629 GMT
13 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak telephoned Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, this evening. During the conversation, part of their constant consultations, the two leaders exchanged views on Arab and international issues.

AL-AHRAM Urges Fatah, Hamas To Unify Forces

NC1407084192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0612 GMT
14 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jul (MENA)—AL-AHRAM emphasizes the danger that the hidden conflict between the Hamas organization and the Fatah Movement poses to the Palestinian intifadah, which has entered its 56th month. It notes that the conflict has suddenly become open and has reached the point of shedding Palestinian blood in the Gaza Strip.

In today's edition, the paper reports Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's appeal to Hamas, which has broken away from the mainstream Palestinian leadership organization, to be committed to a democratic dialogue instead of taking up arms against Fatah, the basic member of the PLO.

The paper says that 'Arafat does not rule out the possibility of the occupation authorities being behind this sedition. It adds that the Israeli authorities have failed to quell the intifadah because of its fine organization, steadfastness, and effectiveness in conducting the struggle.

The paper notes that the occupation forces have resorted to penetrating the intifadah and inciting its members against each other, exploiting the Palestinian leadership's instructions to liquidate traitors and agents who collaborate with the Israeli authorities.

The paper says that, despite other instructions to stop this liquidation, clashes between Hamas and Fatah have continued, thus threatening the intifadah with political disintegration.

AL-AHRAM urges the rival factions to unify their forces through dialogue and continued struggle. It points out that the Labor Party's assumption of power in Israel may widen the gap of dispute between the Palestinian factions in light of possible proposals from the Rabin government for peaceful dealings. The paper says that Fatah might encourage these proposals on directives

from the Palestinian leadership while Hamas, which advocates escalating the fighting, may reject them.

Secret Jordanian-Israeli Meetings Alleged

NC1307201792 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
10 Jul 92 p 3

[Editorial: "Record is Known, Established"]

[Text] Officials in Amman and Tel Aviv are mistaken if they think they can keep secret the meetings that have been going on between them for years. AL-AHRAM has disclosed that the latest meeting took place in Rabin's house in Ramat Aviv on the outskirts of Tel Aviv, when a Jordanian delegation handed him a message from King Husayn and agreed on the date for a meeting in Elat or al-'Aqabah between King Husayn and Yitzhaq Rabin.

The record of the Jordanian and Israeli contacts is known and established. We do not bend the truth when we say that Jordan, led by King Husayn, was the first Arab country to hold direct summit-level contacts with Israel. The Israeli press has counted these meetings, putting their duration at 500 hours. Some meetings between King Husayn and the Israeli leaders took place during the Gulf war, when Jordan appeared to support Saddam Husayn and Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Grabbing the attention this time is that Jordan and Israel have both hastened to issue simultaneous denials of a meeting. Previously, Israel kept silent and refused to comment on such meetings.

Although it is understandable why the Jordanian spokesman denied that secret talks were held between Amman and Tel Aviv and claimed that such reports set out to harm what he called King Husayn's reputation and nationalism, Rabin's spokesman's attempt to share with Jordan the game of denying the report raises doubt and suspicion. The spokesman made a significant remark when he said that Rabin has not contacted the Jordanians since the Israeli election result was announced, implying that there were contacts before the result was announced.

We blame no one for holding contacts with Israel, because, in our opinion, it is no longer a sin to do that since direct negotiations with the participation of the Palestinians have become a reality after the Madrid conference. What we regard as suspicious is the attempt to keep a door open for secret contacts between King Husayn and the Israeli leaders, arousing many suspicions the details of which we prefer not to mention.

The time is not right for the secret deals that King Husayn loves to practice and that lead us to further doubt and question the reputation and nationalism that the Jordanian spokesman says some want to undermine. The Jordanian behavior speaks for itself.

We hope our brothers in Jordan will realize that we live in a world in which no one can hide anything, however clever he might be about wearing masks and changing face for camouflage.

Agreement Signed To Reschedule Debt to Spain

NC1307144592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1307 GMT
13 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—Egypt and the Spanish Government Credit Corporation [title as received] today signed an agreement rescheduling \$449.2 million of Egyptian debts to Spain. According to the agreement, Egypt will repay these loans by the year 2026.

The agreement is in line with the Paris Club joint statement that Egypt and 17 creditor countries signed and which calls for writing off 50 percent of Egypt's debts to these countries.

Dr. Hasan Salim, first undersecretary at the Ministry of International Cooperation, signed the agreement for Egypt and Jose Alatin Tovar [name, no title as received], who is currently in Cairo, signed it for the Spanish Government Credit Corporation.

CAR President Kolingba Sends Message to Mubarak

NC1407113792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Andre-Dieudonne Kolingba, president of the Central African Republic [CAR], today sent a message to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on current African issues and relations between the two countries.

(Joseph Bibave), legal adviser to the Central African Republic president, who is currently in Cairo, conveyed the message to Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

NDP Leader Sees Foreign 'Plot' in Asyut Unrest

NC1407084692 Cairo MENA in English 0706 GMT
14 Jul 92

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Cairo, July 14 (MENA)—Dr. Yusuf Wali declared at a ruling majority National Democratic Party [NDP] rally and an intellectual meeting that brought together Muslims and Christians in Asyut Governorate, that Arab and foreign states supplied weapons to terrorists in the governorate within a plot aimed at playing Egyptian citizens against one another, reported "AL-AHRAM" and "AL-JUMHURIYAH" in their top billing and lead stories.

Addressing the rally yesterday were Deputy Prime Minister, Agriculture Minister and NDP Secretary General Dr. Yusuf Wali and Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub.

Dr. Wali declared that there was plot to provoke Egyptians against each other with weapons supplied by Arab and foreign states. He declared at the rally held in Asyut that what happened in the governorate could be linked to a storm in a tea cup and that the media had exaggerated it out of proportion and conveyed a false impression of what happened and is happening in reality, highlighted "AL-JUMHURIYAH" in their headlines and leads.

Dr. Wali further declared that the security authorities were watching very closely and seriously the gunrunners who had brought into the country big quantities of weapons. He emphasized the need for collaboration of all popular, executive and political bodies in standing up to all events. [passage omitted]

Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub declared that mosques were pulpits for guiding people to the path of righteousness and must never be arenas for bloodshed in the name of Islam. He said that the present stage called for blocking the way in front of provocations to play Egyptians against one another, the papers reported.

Consultative Council Backs Mubarak for Third Term

NC1307060492 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt
Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 13 Jul 92

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH reports that yesterday the Consultative Council announced its unanimous support for President Husni Mubarak's third presidential term. The paper quotes council Speaker Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi as saying that the council, reflecting the will of all Egypt, unanimously appeals to the president to run for a third term. The council knows, Mr. president, that you never turn down any Egyptian request, he added.

Committee Approves Anti-Terrorism Bill

NC1107133292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT
11 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—The Consultative Council's Legislative Affairs Committee, meeting today under Counselor Ahmad Fathi Mursi, approved a draft bill to amend some provisions of the penal code, the criminal procedures law, and several other laws connected with arms, ammunition, youthful offenders, protection of moral values, the state security courts, and secret bank accounts.

The full Consultative Council will discuss the committee's report on the amendments tomorrow, 12 July. The cabinet had referred the draft bill to the People's Assembly and Consultative Council as part of the effort to combat terrorism and violence.

Justice Minister Counselor Faruq Sayf-al-Nasar assured the committee that these amendments were not devised on the spur of the moment or in reaction to specific events. He pointed out that a committee of judges,

prosecutors, law professors from various Egyptian universities, clerics, journalists, and national security officials was formed two years ago to study the anti-terrorism laws in several countries, including Spain, Italy, Germany, and Britain. He stressed that amending the penal code and criminal procedures law conforms with constitutional provisions. He added that a legislative response to terrorism must be part of the solution, and that efforts must also be made in the economic, social, and security fields to end the problem.

The justice minister said he believes that new laws will reduce terrorism. He pointed out that there were 4,400 terrorist acts in Italy between 1969 and 1975, rising to 8,800 incidents between 1976 and 1980. After Italy passed special anti-terrorism laws, the number of incidents fell to 2,800 between 1981 and 1986.

Council Speaker Comments

NC1207184092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT
12 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—The Consultative Council today approved in principle a draft bill amending some of the articles of the penal code, the criminal procedures law, and several other anti-terrorism laws.

Consultative Council Speaker Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi spoke at the beginning of the discussion, explaining that combating terrorism does not depend on legislation alone but on a comprehensive handling of the problem. He said that legislation is one of several methods and that the Council, realizing the seriousness of the terrorism problem, has decided to conduct a scientific study into methods of combating terrorism. The study will include research into the attitudes of youth, political and religious uncertainties, unemployment, and the cultural and media atmosphere.

Justice Minister Faruq Sayf-al-Nasar also addressed the session, noting that amending the penal code, criminal procedures law, and other laws rests on the assumption that legislative action is necessary to combat terrorism because terrorism, extremism, and violence are unacceptable to the public. He added: A legislative solution has been drawn up in accordance with constitutional provisions. It shows our determination to confront this danger to our homeland's future, progress, liberty, and security with firm deterrence and within the bounds of the Constitution and the law. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Begin Publication of New Newspaper

NC1207211192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1746 GMT
12 Jul 92

[Text] Alexandria, 12 Jul (MENA)—The Armed Forces Morale Department has begun publication of a new newspaper, AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH [ARMED FORCES]. The newspaper, reporting military news, will only be circulated among the Armed Forces.

Minister of Defense General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi presented a copy of the newspaper to President Mubarak during the graduation ceremony for officers of the Air Defense College in Abu Qir, Alexandria today.

The newspaper carries a photograph of Mubarak on the front page and describes him as "the man who, under the umbrella of democracy, has led the nation in the midst of internal and external difficulties and problems and has brought it to the shore of safety." The newspaper includes various reports on Armed Forces activities and the services they offer in the social, medical, cultural, and religious fields. It also includes sports news and the military draft law.

Major General Ahmad Fu'ad al-Sayyid is the chairman of the board of the newspaper and Tarqi al-Hariri is its chief editor.

Libya

Pan Am Flight 103 Compensation Plan Denied

LD1007204392 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT
10 Jul 92

[Text] Tripoli, 10 Jul (JANA)—An informed source at the People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation learned that the media in some Western countries have been circulating a report quoting what they named as Libyan officials, whose names were not revealed, as having asked certain people to offer money to the families of the victims of Pan Am flight 103, which crashed into the Scottish village of Lockerbie.

At a time when we repeat our sympathy for the families of the victims, we stress that what was reiterated has no basis in truth. For what is the meaning of talking about compensation when no investigations or trial have occurred nor have the charges been proven? [passage indistinct]

Daily Cited on 'Arab Feeling of Defeat'

LD1107150992 Tripoli JANA in English 0827 GMT
11 Jul 92

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, Nasir [July] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—AL-AZAHF-AL-AKHDAR yesterday published an editorial entitled "Arabs of the sixties" in which it said that the real Arab problems were due to the overlay of defeat covering their hearts which makes them lose battles before they even start.

The paper stressed "that today, the Arabs have military, economic, geographical resources and human capabilities which could enable them to become the sixth major power in the world but they are psychologically defeated to the point of impotence with silence as their only reaction.

The paper added "if this had been the situation of the Arabs in the sixties, Algeria, for instance, would not have been liberated while it had 3 million settlers and half a million French soldiers on its territory.

It pointed out that the battle for Algeria's independence was truly pan Arab struggle, a battle which waited for neither Security Council resolutions, U.N General Assembly meetings nor even the Arab League. Since the advent of the liberation revolution on 1st November, the Arabs stood in support of this revolution providing it with all forms of assistance.

The paper said "freedom lovers in Algeria's neighbouring countries did not wait for the approval of Arab and foreign governments to turn their countries into bases for the Algerian revolutionaries to launch their heroic operations and use them as a refuge thereafter. The Arabs did not hesitate to sacrifice their blood for the Algerian revolution when their morale was high and psychological state good.

The paper affirmed "there is no room for comparison between the position of the Arabs the day they chose confrontation resulting in the victory of the Algerian revolution and their position today as they chose to be totally silent to a degree of connivance in what is going on in Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, Somalia and the ban against Libya.

AL-AZAHF-AL-AKHDAR concluded its editorial by saying that "if looked for the real reasons behind the current low morale and the Arab feeling of defeat, we would have found that the disappointment and despair which led the Arabs to lose their battles to the point where they began to feel inferior and defeatist in their dealing with the world.

Chadian Military Delegation Arrives on Visit

LD1207223792 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2200 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir yesterday evening [12 July] met with the commander in chief of the Chadian Armed Forces, Major Mahmat Ali Abdallah and an accompanying delegation, who arrived in Tripoli earlier yesterday on a visit to the Great Jamahiriya.

In a statement on his arrival, the Chadian Armed Forces commander in chief praised the existing relations between the Great Jamahiriya and Chad. He stated that

the aim of his visit is to promote these relations in a way that will serve both friendly peoples' interests.

Morocco

Sources Deny Knowledge of Israeli Minister Visit

LD1007150792 Rabat MAP in English 1329 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] Rabat, Jul. 10 (MAP)—Authorised sources here said they know nothing about the visit to Morocco by Israeli Home Minister Arye Der'i as announced this Friday by the Israeli Radio.

Morocco, said the same sources, does not bar Israelis of Moroccan origin from coming to Morocco to visit their relatives and it is probably in this frame that the Israeli official will visit Morocco if the visit actually takes place.

King Hassan Receives Saudi Crown Prince

LD1107083292 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, who was flanked by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and by His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid and His Royal Highness Moulay Hicham, this afternoon received at Diafa palace in Rabat His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-Al-'Aziz, Saudi Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard.

Economic Cooperation Accord Signed With Spain

LD1207085992 Rabat MAP in English 1227 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] Rabat, Jul 11 (MAP)—Morocco and Spain concluded a convention meant to promote partnership and cooperation accords between economic operators of the two countries.

The document crowning a work session Jul 7 by Minister in Charge of Foreign Investment Mohamed Alaoui M'daghri and director general for Banco Exterior de Espana group seeks further economic complementarity and integration. Investments will be encouraged and exchanges stimulated through joint action.

Both sides said they were happy with mutual trust, permanent dialogue, and partnership drive pervading relations between Morocco and Spain.

Kuwait

Eight Boats Taken by Iraq Returned

LD1307190792 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1828 GMT
13 Jul 92

[Text] Kuwait City, 13 Jul (KUNA)—KUNA has learned this evening that the competent authorities have received eight of the boats taken by the Iraqi regime during its unjust invasion of Kuwait.

Kuwait is due to receive the rest of the 74 boats over the next few days.

Heir Apparent Sets Elections for October

PM1407085492 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 12 Jul 92 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Heir Apparent: October Date for National Council Elections Irrevocable"]

[Excerpts] Kuwait, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, has emphasized that the October date for the National Council elections is final and irrevocable. He said that the purpose of his highness' meetings with citizens is to exchange views. He said that many proposals have found their way to implementation via the cabinet.

This came an interview that his highness the heir apparent, the prime minister, gave to the editorial staff of SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI at midday yesterday on the first anniversary of the publication of the newspaper's local edition in the homeland.

His highness emphasized the importance of citizens' cooperation with security personnel and described the police assistants plan as a noble idea aimed at establishing peace throughout the country.

His highness warned that the Iraqi regime was seeking to repeat what happened before, and urged people to draw the conclusions from the lesson of the invasion in order to cooperate and protect the national entity.

His highness emphasized that the economy was moving in the right direction and that setting the wheel of development in motion was a just matter of time. [passage omitted]

His highness the heir apparent broached the situation in Iraq. He said that the head of the Iraqi regime was seeking to repeat what happened before. Thus the internal front and national unity must be strengthened. His highness wondered: "Have we not learned a lesson from the invasion?" He went on to say: "If the answer is 'yes,' we must draw conclusions that will prompt us to cooperate and work earnestly to protect the Kuwaiti entity." [passage omitted]

In his interview with SAWT AL-KUWAYT's editorial staff his highness the heir apparent expressed the greatest interest in the case of the Kuwaiti prisoners held in the Iraqi regime's jails. He emphasized the great interest devoted to the issue by his highness, the country's amir. He pointed out that Kuwait is making contacts with all international and regional organizations, as well as friendly and fraternal states, and making constant efforts which we hope will soon lead to these prisoners' safe return to their families. [passage omitted]

Oman

Diplomatic Ties Established With Azerbaijan

JN1307143392 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic
1300 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Excerpt] The Sultanate of Oman and Azerbaijan have decided to establish diplomatic relations and exchange diplomatic representation on the ambassadorial level as of today. [passage omitted]

Minister Addresses UN Team 'Provocations'

JN1407065592 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Agriculture and Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh has asserted that there is no justification or basis for the provocations carried out by the joint international inspection team since 5 July to search the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry building.

At a press conference yesterday evening, attended by local, Arab, and world media correspondents, the agriculture and irrigation minister said that the team's claims were false and that its claims that the building was not the headquarters of the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry and that it contained documents and materials pertaining to the requirements of Security Council Resolution 687 were totally baseless.

The agriculture and irrigation minister added that Iraq had asked specialized Arab and international agricultural organizations to intercede with the United Nations, so as to quickly withdraw the inspection team from the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry building because it is creating confusion and preventing the ministry from properly carrying out its civilian duties.

He also noted that letters have been addressed to Arab agriculture ministers, explaining the provocative acts carried out by the inspection team aimed at creating a fake crisis, which well-known international parties can use to harm the Iraqi people and use as pretexts to maintain the blockade on them.

The agriculture and irrigation minister also invited non-governmental humanitarian organizations in Arab countries and the world and all Islamic and Christian clergy in the world to visit the the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry building whenever they like to get acquainted with all facts and discover the extent of deliberate confusion and deception carried out by the inspection team when it fabricated this crisis, and the tendentious campaign and empty claims made by hostile parties, so as to peddle their suspect policy which had nothing to do with Security Council Resolution 687.

The agriculture and irrigation minister asserted, moreover, that the inspection team's presence outside the ministry building was interference in Iraq's affairs and its sovereignty, considering that the ministry is a civilian establishment and a symbol of Iraqi sovereignty. He also noted Iraq's cooperation with the international inspection missions to inspect other departments, but not the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry.

He explained that the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry had nothing to do with any document related to Security Council Resolution 687 and that it was a civilian department that takes care of the affairs of peasants and their agricultural needs.

The agriculture and irrigation minister said that the inspection team's insistence on having access to the ministry building prejudiced Iraqi sovereignty, conflicted with the simplest national values, and was also illegitimate.

'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh described statements made in Bahrain by the leader of the inspection team, Karen Jansen, about her regret over not participating in the war against Iraq, as evidence of the extent of her vindictiveness toward the people of Iraq.

KDP's al-Atrushi Denounces U.S. 'Plots'

NC1107102792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT
10 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jul (INA)—Ahmad Muhammad Sa'id al-Atrushi, Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) secretary, has said the Iraqi people—Arabs and Kurds—are proud of the historic and wise leadership of President Saddam Husayn, the builder of Iraq's new glory. They are fully prepared to make sacrifices to defend Iraq and its firm national unity and to safeguard its sovereignty.

In a statement to INA, al-Atrushi said: Having despaired of undermining the Iraqi people's love and support for President Saddam Husayn, the enemies resorted to using the dirtiest, most brutal, and basest means against our people. U.S. aircraft have burned crops to hurt the Iraqi people more and to undermine their steadfastness against the unjust blockade. The enemies have hatched plots to undermine Iraq's unity and national sovereignty. They have supported the criminal gangs in Kurdistan that are carrying out the ugliest of crimes and treasonous acts against our Iraqi people—Arabs and Kurds. These gangs are carrying out the gravest acts of plotting and aggression protected by the U.S. forces. The enemies have also been behind plotting and aggression by the UN inspection teams and their provocative acts, the latest of which were represented by the inspection team's behavior in front of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. This behavior violates international norms and UN Security Council Resolution 687, given that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations under this resolution.

Al-Atrushi explained that the United States is behind these unethical practices by the UN inspection teams. The United States is fabricating excuses to maintain the blockade, fight our people, and undermine the people's unity and the country's sovereignty. All Iraqis—Arabs, Kurds, and minorities—reject this. He called on the humanitarian organizations and the honest voices in the Arab homeland and elsewhere to play their historic role in these delicate circumstances.

Concluding, al-Atrushi said our Iraqi people, under the banner of President Saddam Husayn, will always remain a symbol of steadfastness, sacrifice, and construction and will safeguard the country's sovereignty. Under no circumstances will they let the enemies undermine the bases and principles of their life. The links of aggression and plotting will be smashed one after the other and the

enemies' illusions will fade as they did in Saddam's al-Qadisiyah and mother of battles.

SAIRI Details 'Violent' Clashes in Tikrit

NC1407064392 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has announced that violent clashes occurred between the public and the regime's army in the Tikrit area [birthplace of Saddam Husayn], approximately 100 km north of Baghdad. In a statement released in Damascus, SAIRI said that violent clashes began 10 July in areas near Tikrit and were still going on yesterday morning. The statement said that the popular forces recently carried out operations against the regime's agents. It asserted that two intelligence officials were executed, one in Baghdad and the other in al-Basrah. (endall) 140530 ng/vander voort/se 14/0645z Jul 104 WC

BABIL Cites 'Facts' on Kuwait-Iraq Relations

JN1307092692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jul (INA)—BABIL stresses that Kuwait's relationship with Iraq is similar to the relationship between a small brother and a big brother—they should be united. In an article under the headline "Destiny and the Kuwaiti Issue," the paper cites important historical facts on Kuwait's relationship with Iraq.

BABIL asks: Have the Kuwaitis now realized that the issue of homelands cannot be extinguished in the hearts and conscience of people, regardless of time? Have they realized that nations do not concede their rights even after tens or hundreds of years?

BABIL also asks: How have the Kuwaitis reacted to the story presented by Iraqi television within its program "Fact and Fiction" concerning the historical roots of Kuwait and the history of the clan which ruled it, and its relationship with Iraq as the motherland? How did they react to Barzan al-Tikriti's call in his famous article published in AL-JUMHURIYAH on the future relationship, as he sees it, between Iraq and Kuwait? How did they react when they were reminded of what came in the editorial of the Iraqi paper AL-IKHA' AL-WATAN [fraternity homeland] in 1933 on the relationship between Iraq and Kuwait?

Concluding its article, BABIL says: After all this, is it not correct, realistic, logical, and legitimate to greet our grandfathers who wrote about the relationship between the small and big brothers and to seek enlightenment from them? The torches will never be extinguished and will continue to illuminate the road until matters are straightened out and rights are restored to their owners.

Saddam Discusses Importance of Higher Education

NC1207202492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has asserted that Iraq's current circumstances, imposed by the forces of aggression led by the United States, make it necessary for its educated and enlightened vanguard to undertake tasks in the service of their homeland using their knowledge.

His excellency compared the aggression against Iraq to a wolf threatening a person sick with fever, saying: We are not in a position to wait until the sick person recovers and begins running. We want him to run now to escape the wolf.

His excellency urged those in charge of higher education in Iraq to attach special importance to practical education to test the ability of those who have obtained higher degrees in theoretical fields.

Commenting on proposals submitted by the concerned ministers and the presidents of Iraqi universities, the president stressed the importance of deliberations. He also advocated paying special attention to the country's need for scientific expertise when arranging higher education examinations, so that a holder of a specialized degree can apply his knowledge to benefit his country.

His excellency gave instructions for fixed standards to be used in evaluating and judging the scientific standards of degree holders, and for those supervising higher education students to be provided with everything they need to create an appropriate atmosphere for complex scientific specialization.

The president showed interest in the human and behavioral aspect of the relationship between university professors and new doctorate holders in their capacity as candidate professors. He said he believes that universities should have the right to limit the acceptance of doctoral graduates onto their faculties without (?intervention) by any other party.

The president expressed his conviction that teachers should have the right to refuse to teach any subject not within their specialty.

His excellency emphasized the importance of following the rules in evaluating scientists, innovators, and persons with distinguished performance, saying: We need to maintain a standard in evaluation so as to encourage people; so that when someone is promoted, others will be encouraged to reach his standard. His excellency warned against the danger of not adhering to meticulous standards in evaluating a degree holder or one involved in higher education, as such behavior will reflect negatively on that person's future performance.

Source—No Legal Status for Kurdistan Council

JN1307115092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] News agencies have said that some groups in the Autonomous Region have formed the so-called council of ministers of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region. Commenting on this action, a responsible source in the National Assembly has made the following statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY:

The Third Article of the Republic of Iraq's Constitution says that Iraq's sovereignty is an indivisible whole and that Iraq's territory is an indivisible whole. The Constitution entrusts the Revolution Command Council and the National Assembly with the power to enforce laws. The Kurdistan Autonomous Region's Law No. 23 of 1974 was issued in implementation of what was specified in the Constitution, and to enable the Autonomous Region to administer the region's affairs by institutions representing its citizens within the framework of the Republic of Iraq's laws. In its first article, the Autonomous Law stipulates that the Kurdistan Region enjoys autonomy within the framework of the legal, political, and economic unity of the Republic of Iraq, and that the autonomous institutions constitute an integral part of the institutions of the Republic of Iraq.

In accordance with Article 13 of the Autonomous Law, the Executive Council is considered the executive institution of the Autonomous administration. Based on this, the appointment of this or any other executive council must take place in accordance with the Autonomous Law so long as it is valid, unless it is amended or canceled by the central authority. Since the so-called council of ministers of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region was formed contrary to the Kurdistan Autonomous Region Law, it does not have any legal status. Consequently, its actions and decisions will not be recognized or binding because they are illegal, and consequently, the members of this alleged council do not enjoy any legal status, especially since their appointment conflicts with the Constitution and the law.

Regime Said Planning Fresh Attack on Marshlands

NC1307165792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi
People in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] The ostracized tyrant's regime has massed additional military forces, supported by boats equipped with medium-caliber weapons, in a new attempt to launch attacks against the marshlands in al-Basrah Governorate.

Iraqi opposition sources reported today that criminal 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, defense minister of the ostracized regime, visited the regime forces deployed around the southern marshlands recently, meeting with the commanders and officers in preparation for a new attack

against the marshlands. The sources said that the ostracized regime has deployed a number of long-range artillery batteries, T-72 tanks, and helicopters on the edge of the marshlands in al-'Amarah, al-Basrah, and al-Nasiriyah.

Ramadan Returns From Sudan Visit; Comments

JN0907134992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1225 GMT
9 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jul (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, has returned to Baghdad after heading an Iraqi delegation to the celebrations marking the third anniversary of the Sudanese National Salvation revolution.

In a statement to INA today, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that he relayed the congratulations and greetings of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and those of the Iraqi people to His Excellency 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, and the fraternal Sudanese people on the occasion. Ramadan added that he also conveyed to the Sudanese leader the pride Iraq—leadership and people—takes in the noble and courageous pan-Arab stands demonstrated by the fraternal Sudanese people.

The vice president went on to say that he also discussed with Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir Iraqi-Sudanese ties, inter-Arab affairs, as well as means of enhancing and promoting the prospects of fraternal bilateral cooperation in all spheres.

Taha Yasin Ramadan noted that the Sudanese president asked him to relay his greetings to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn as well as his pride in Iraq's principled pan-Arab stands and its defiance of all conspiracies and aggression. The Sudanese leader, Ramadan added, also renewed Sudan's adherence to its pan-Arab stands and its rejection of all forms of threats.

Cuban Communist Party Official Pays Visit

Received by Ba'th Official

JN1107113392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT
11 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jul (INA)—'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the Command's Foreign Relations Bureau, has said that the historic responsibility of revolutionary parties and forces in the world at this stage is to confront U.S. hegemony and face the so-called new world order, which is meant to be used against people throughout the world.

During a meeting with Rodrigo Alvarez Cambras, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], 'Abd-al-Ghafur valued the position Cuba—both the leadership and people—took in

support of Iraq during the latter's confrontation of the 30-state aggression and the criminal blockade imposed on it. He also paid tribute to the ties of true friendship existing between the leaders of the two revolutions, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and Mr. Fidel Castro, and also to the genuine friendly ties existing between the people in both countries.

'Abd-al-Ghafur added that this noble revolutionary stand reflects the true meaning of friendship and friends when principles were put to the test in times of ordeals, and when a revolutionary people became the target of a ferocious imperialist-colonialist onslaught.

For his part, Alvarez Cambras expressed his admiration for the wise leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He also admired the sweeping reconstruction endeavor currently underway in Iraq, which shows the capabilities of the unique Iraqi people and their potential in reconstruction and rebuilding. This endeavor also shows their victory over enemies, he maintained. He noted the importance of the steadfastness demonstrated by Iraq in the face of the 30-state aggression, affirming that this steadfastness and this sweeping reconstruction campaign will leave their impact on the peoples struggling to build their future and safeguard their sovereignty.

During the meeting, which was attended by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, deputy official in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau, as well as some other members of the bureau, means of enhancing and bolstering ties between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the PCC were discussed.

Saddam Receives Cuban Envoy

JN1207150292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn today received Professor Alvarez Cambras, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and chairman of the Cuban-Arab and Cuban-Iraqi Friendship Societies. Cambras conveyed to our leader, may God preserve him, Cuban President Fidel Castro's greetings and his admiration for the Iraqi people's struggle and their steadfastness in the face of aggression.

His excellency the leader president asked the guest to convey his greetings to the Cuban president and wished the Cuban people every progress and success in confronting imperialist designs.

Foreign Minister, Cambras Discuss Ties

NC1207201592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jul (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn has received Professor Alvarez Cambras,

member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and chairman of the Cuban-Arab and Cuban-Iraqi Friendship Societies. During the meeting, they reviewed the friendly relations between their two peoples and governments, and ways to develop them in every field.

Cambras expressed great satisfaction with his visit to Iraq and voiced admiration, on behalf of the Cuban Government and people, for the Iraqi people's steadfastness and heroic resistance to the hostile imperialist-Zionist onslaught. He asserted that Iraq's heroic steadfastness is embodied in the major reconstruction effort taking place in the country, which expresses the Iraqi people's rejection of all forms of hegemony, aggression, and exploitation and asserts the resolve of the people and their wise leadership.

The foreign minister expressed satisfaction at meeting with Cambras and emphasized Iraq's support for the Cuban Government and people in their battle to safeguard Cuba's unity and independence from the imperialist U.S. tyranny. He remarked that countries wishing to preserve their independence and dignity must be determined to resist the U.S. hegemony over international organizations.

The chairman of the Second Political Department also attended the meeting.

Agriculture Union Chief Meets Jordanian Delegation

NC1007155692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1417 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jul (INA)—Muhammad Tahir Sukri al-Hiyali, chairman of the union of agricultural engineers, met this morning with members of the delegation of the union of Jordanian agricultural engineers led by Deputy Chairman Muhammad Abu-'Ayyash. Discussions dealt with ways to strengthen relations between Iraqi and Jordanian agricultural engineers in agriculture and exchanging expertise to bolster Arab food security.

More U.S. 'Airspace Violations' Protested to UN

JN1207113092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] Once again, Iraq yesterday sent a memorandum to the UN secretary general on Iraqi airspace violations by U.S. aircraft.

In his memorandum, the Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations said that the airspace violations committed during the period 2-7 July totaled 74 air sorties aimed at surveillance and harassment. He added that these flights centered over Zakho, al-'Amadiyah, Dahuk, Mosul, Tall 'Afar, 'Ayn Zalah, Irbil, and Dokan, noting that the aircraft committing these violations were flying at various speeds and altitudes.

Shamir Turns Over Prime Ministership to Rabin

TA1407073592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0700 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Outgoing Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir met privately with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this morning and handed the reigns of power to him. Afterwards, Yitzhaq Shamir said that the country is currently in better shape than it was when put in the hands of his government. Shamir expressed the hope that the new government will not do anything to undermine the outgoing government's achievements. He wished Yitzhaq Rabin success in his post and expressed the hope that his government will mark many accomplishments.

Yitzhaq Rabin said that anyone assuming the role of prime minister feels a heavy responsibility. Rabin said that Israel should aspire to achieve additional goals. He pointed out that his predecessor belonged both to the last generation to be enslaved and the first to achieve redemption. This was a generation of people who struggled and put themselves at risk to establish the country. I am sure, Rabin said, that Yitzhaq Shamir has earned his honorable place in the annals of Zionism, and I thank him for that.

Rabin Administration Approved; Cabinet Sworn In

TA1307202892 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
2007 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] Rabin's government has gained the Knesset's confidence: 67 Knesset members [MK's] voted in favor while 53 voted against. Labor, Meretz, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], and MK Darawshah and his Arab Democratic Party colleagues supported the government, while Likud, Tzomet, Moledet, the NRP [National Religious Party], and United Torah Jewry voted against. The 17 members of the new government were sworn in immediately after the vote of confidence.

Inaugural Session of 13th Knesset Held 13 Jul

Rabin Addresses Knesset

TA1307155592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1407 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Address by Prime Minister-Designate Yitzhaq Rabin at the inaugural session of the 13th Knesset—live]

[Text] His Excellency, Mr. President of the State; Knesset Speaker; Members of Knesset: The government that is seeking the vote of confidence of the 13th Knesset today knows very well that each and every Israeli is looking at it with a prayer and vast hope. From today onward, many people—both in Israel and outside it—will hope for a new way, for momentum, for a new chapter in the annals of the State of Israel. With their blessing and concern, we set out today on a lengthy and arduous road.

Members of the House, please take note that this government is determined to embrace every possible effort, pave every road, and do every possible and impossible thing for the sake of national and personal security, for the sake of peace and of preventing war, for the sake of eliminating unemployment, for the sake of aliyah and its absorption, for the sake of economic growth, to enhance the foundations of democracy and the rule of law, and for the sake of ensuring equality for all citizens, while upholding human rights.

We will change the national order of priorities. We know well that the road we are about to tread will be fraught with obstacles; crises will erupt, and there will be disappointment, tears, and pain. After all this is over, however, once we come to the end of this road, we will have acquired a strong country, a good country, a country in which we all share in the big efforts and are proud to be its citizens. As the poet Rahel put it: Will a concerted, stubborn, and persistent effort of a thousand arms not move mountains? The answer lies with us and is up to us.

Members of the House, on behalf of all of you, both veteran and new members, I would like to thank outgoing Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky for his role in and contribution to the Knesset and to democratic conduct in Israel. You have the gratitude of us all.

Heartfelt blessings on behalf of all of us to the Knesset speaker who has just been elected, my friend Shevah Weiss. I see him as a symbol of the history of the Jewish people in the last generation: a survivor; a Jewish boy who survived the horrors of the Holocaust; an immigrant who was integrated into this country, who has studied and imparted knowledge, and who today deserves our appreciation. To you and to this House, I wish success.

I hope that on your behalf, members of the House, with a warm handshake that transcends parties, different opinions, and political rivalries, I greet the new Knesset members. I would like to express my gratitude to the 40 members of the outgoing Knesset. Many of them are among the founders of this country and its best warriors. I cannot mention them by name and express my gratitude and appreciation for the deeds of each and every one of them, but I am sure that all factions of the House—right and left, religious and secular—bid them farewell with gratitude.

Members of the House, on Sunday, 2 July 1992, the president of the state entrusted me with the mission of forming a government in Israel, and on Friday, 10 July 1992, I informed him that I had succeeded. The government that is seeking the vote of confidence of the Knesset today will be made up of Labor, Meretz, and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]. We explained the government's policy to HADASH, the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, and to the Arab Democratic Party with regard to Israel's Arab citizens. The coalition's door will remain open to broaden its ranks with those parties that agree to embrace the government's basic guidelines. Aside from possible disagreements

among the coalition partners because they come from all parts of the political spectrum, the government unanimously shares the feeling currently prevalent among the people: that this is a time of goodwill, a time of big possibilities and opportunities which we will do our utmost not to miss.

Mr. Speaker, members of the House, in the last decade of the 20th Century, the atlases and the history and geography books no longer depict reality. Walls of hatred have crumbled, borders have been erased, superpowers have collapsed, ideologies have broken down, countries have been born and passed away, and the gates have opened to immigration to Israel. It is our duty, both to ourselves and to our children, to see the new world as it is today, to examine the risks and explore the chances, and to do everything so that the State of Israel becomes part of the changing world. We are no longer an isolated nation, and it is no longer true that the entire world is against us. We must rid ourselves of the feeling of isolation that has afflicted us for almost 50 years. We must join the campaign of peace, reconciliation, and international cooperation that is currently engulfing the entire globe, lest we miss the train and be left alone at the station.

This is why the new government made its main goal to promote the attainment of peace for Israel and to launch vigorous steps to bring about the termination of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We will do this on the basis of recognition by the Arab countries and the Palestinians of Israel as a sovereign state and of its right to live in peace and security. We sincerely believe that this is possible, imperative, and will come to be. As the poet Saul Tchernichowsky wrote: Believe I in the future. Though it may be far off, the day will yet come when peace shall be spoken and nation will bless nation. I would like to believe that this day is not far off.

The government will propose to the Arab countries and to the Palestinians to pursue the peace negotiations based on the format consolidated at the Madrid conference. As a first step on the way to the permanent solution, we will discuss the implementation of autonomy in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza district. It is not our intention to waste valuable time. The first directive the government will issue to the negotiating teams will be to accelerate the talks and to conduct intensive deliberations between the sides.

Within a short period of time, we will reopen the talks to dampen the flame of hatred between the Palestinians and the State of Israel. As a first step, and in order to demonstrate our integrity and goodwill, I wish to invite the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation for an informal meeting here in Jerusalem, to hear them and to let them hear us, in order to create the proper atmosphere for a good partnership.

From this podium I want to send a message to you, the Palestinians in the territories: We have been destined to live together on the same piece of land in the same

country. Our life proceeds alongside yours, with you, and against you. You have failed in the wars against us. A hundred years of bloody terror on your part only inflicted suffering, pain, and bereavement upon you. You have lost thousands of your sons and daughters, and you have constantly lost ground. For over 44 years you have been deluding yourselves, your leaders have been leading you by the nose with falsehoods and lies. They missed all the opportunities, they rejected all our proposed solutions, and they led you from one disaster to another. You, the Palestinians in the territories, living in miserable exile in Gaza and Khan Yunus and in the refugee camps in Nabulus and Hebron, you who have never in your lives known even one day of freedom and happiness: You had better listen to us, if only this time. We are offering you the most fair and realistic offer we can put forth today: autonomy, self-rule, with its advantages and limitations. You will not get all that you want. We, too, may not get everything we want. Once and for all, take your fate into your own hands. Do not once again miss the opportunity which may never recur. Take our proposal seriously, give it the seriousness it deserves to spare yourselves yet more suffering and bereavement. Enough of tears and blood!

Today the new government proposes to the Palestinians in the territories to give peace a chance and to stop all violent and terrorist activities during the autonomy negotiations. We know very well that the Palestinians are not of one mind and that some of them think differently, but the people have been suffering for years.

To the troublemakers in the territories we propose to drop the stones and the knives and await the outcome of the talks which may engender peace in the Middle East. If the Palestinians accept this proposal, we will pursue the talks. Nevertheless, we will deal with the territories as if there were no negotiations going on between us. Instead of stretching out a friendly hand, we will enforce all the measures to prevent terror and violence. The choice is in the hands of the Palestinians in the territories.

We have lost our best sons and daughters in the struggle over this land and in the wars against the Arab armies. My longtime comrades in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and I, as a former military man who fought in Israel's wars, carry their memory in our hearts with great love. We share the grief of the families whose nights are sleepless and for whom all days of the year are one long memorial day, because only those who have lost their best friends can understand the feeling. Our heart also goes out to the disabled whose bodies are marked with the scars of war and terror. Even at this festive time, we do not forget the Israeli MIA's and POW's. We will continue to wage every possible effort to bring them back home. Our thoughts today, as always, are with their families.

Members of the House, we will continue to fight for our right to live here in peace and tranquility. No knife, stone, firebomb, or mine will stop us. The government

being presented here today sees itself responsible for the security of each and every Israeli citizen, Jew and Arab alike, in the State of Israel, in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. We will strike hard and relentlessly at the terrorists and their henchmen. There will be no compromises in the war against terror. The IDF and the other security forces will prove to the bloodthirsty men that our lives are not expendable. We will take action to reduce hostile activities as much possible and safeguard the personal safety of the inhabitants of Israel and the inhabitants of the territories while meticulously upholding the law and individual freedoms.

Members of the House, on your behalf, too, allow me to seize this occasion to convey our gratitude to the soldiers and commanders of the IDF, to the secret warriors of the Shin Bet, to the men of the Border Police and the Israel Police for the nights spent in pursuit and lying in ambush, for the days spent on guard and on the alert. On behalf of all of us, I shake your hand.

Members of the Knesset, the plan for Palestinian self-rule in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza—the autonomy—included in the Camp David accords involves a five-year interim arrangement. No later than three years after its establishment, discussions will begin on the permanent solution. By definition, the very fact that this issue is being discussed arouses concern among those of us who chose to settle in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza district. I hereby inform you that the government, by means of the IDF and the other security forces, will be responsible for the security and welfare of the residents in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. At the same time, the government will avoid moves and acts that would disturb the proper conduct of the peace negotiations. We would like to emphasize that the government will continue to strengthen and build up Jewish settlement along the confrontation lines, due to their security importance, and in metropolitan Jerusalem.

This government, just like all its predecessors, believes there are no differences of opinion within this House concerning the eternalness of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Jerusalem, whole and united, has been and will remain the capital of the Israeli people under Israeli sovereignty, the place every Jew yearns and dreams of. The government is resolute in its position that Jerusalem is not a negotiable issue. The coming years, too, will witness the expansion of construction in metropolitan Jerusalem. Every Jew, both religious and secular, vows: If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! This vow unites all of us and certainly applies to me, being a native of Jerusalem.

The government will uphold the freedom of worship of members of all other faiths in Jerusalem. It will meticulously maintain free access to the holy sites of all faiths and sects and will make a normal and comfortable life possible for all those visiting and living in it.

Members of the Knesset, the winds of peace that have been blowing recently from Moscow to Washington,

from Berlin to Beijing; the voluntary elimination of weapons of mass destruction; and the abrogation of military pacts have decreased the risks of war in the Middle East as well. Nevertheless, this region—made up of Syria, Jordan, Iraq, and Lebanon—is still rife with dangers, which is why we will not make even the slightest concession on issues of security. As far as we are concerned, security comes even before peace.

Several countries in our region have recently stepped up their efforts to develop and export nuclear weapons. According to reports, Iraq was very close to possessing nuclear arms. Fortunately, the Iraqi nuclear capability was exposed in time and, according to various testimonies, it was affected and damaged in and after the Gulf war. The possibility that nuclear weapons may make their appearance in the Middle East in the next few years is a negative and very serious development from Israel's point of view. Already in its initial steps, the government—possibly with the cooperation of other countries—will give its attention to the foiling of every possibility that any of Israel's enemies should get a hold on nuclear weapons. For a long time, Israel has been ready for the danger of the existence of nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, this reality requires us to give additional thought to the urgent need to terminate the Arab-Israeli conflict and to attain peace with our neighbors.

Members of the House, from this moment on, the term peace process is no longer relevant. Starting today we will not talk of a process, but of making peace. In making peace, we would like to employ the good services of Egypt, whose late leader Anwar al-Sadat mustered the courage and had the wisdom to award his people and us the first peace treaty. The government will seek other ways to improve neighborly relations and to enhance the ties with Egypt and its president, Hosni Mubarak.

I call on the leaders of the Arab countries to follow in the footsteps of Egypt and its presidents, to make the move that will bring peace to us and them. I invite the king of Jordan and the Syrian and Lebanese presidents to come here to this podium, here in Israel's Knesset in Jerusalem, and talk peace. I am willing to travel today, tomorrow, to Amman, Damascus, Beirut on behalf of peace, because there is no greater triumph than the triumph of peace. In wars, there are victors and vanquished. In peace, all are victors.

In making peace, we will also be joined by the United States, whose friendship and special closeness we sincerely appreciate and hold dear. We will spare no effort to tighten and improve the special relations we have with the only superpower in the world. Although we will receive its advice, the decisions will be ours only—of Israel as a sovereign and independent state.

We will also foster, enhance, and reinforce our ties with the EC. Even if we have not always seen eye to eye and have had disagreements with the Europeans, we have no doubt that the road to peace will also go through Europe.

We will enhance all possible ties with Russia, the CIS republics, the PRC, and every country that would like to take our outstretched hand.

Mr. Speaker, members of the House, security does not only mean tanks, aircraft, and missile boats. Security also means—perhaps first and foremost—man. It is the education of man; it is his home and school, his street and neighborhood, the society in which he grew up. Security is the hope of man; it is the peace of mind and the livelihood of the immigrant from Leningrad and a roof over the head of the immigrant from Gondar in Ethiopia; it is the factory that gives jobs to native Israelis and to demobilized soldiers; it is integration in our way of life and culture. All these also spell security.

You ask: How will we go about it? We will change the national order of priorities in the allocation of financial resources from the state budget and from funds we will raise abroad. First and foremost, national priority will be given to fighting unemployment, to strengthening economic and social systems. Unemployment is the source of all evil. It deprives man of dignity; it ruins and crushes the life and soul of the man who cannot put bread on the table of his family, and there is no greater calamity than being hungry.

We intend to accelerate the pace of economic growth, to create jobs for hundreds of thousands of immigrants and native Israelis who will be joining the work force in the coming years. We will do this by adjusting the economy, by opening it up and freeing it of administrative restrictions and excessive government intervention. There is too much paperwork and too little productivity. We will promote the sale of government-owned enterprises and privatization. We will do this in cooperation with the workers so as not to hurt them. A free world calls for a free economy.

We will invest in vital and basic projects in order to attract entrepreneurs to build industries. We will allocate funds to infrastructure, transportation, electricity, water, and sewage; to high-tech industries; to research and development—this is the government's duty. We will reduce government intervention in the capital market, and we will open a high-risk investment market. We will encourage small businesses. We will set a social services basket comprising education, health, welfare, and housing which will be provided by law to all Israeli citizens. We want new immigrants and our sons and daughters to find employment, means of livelihood, and a future here. We do not want Israel's main export to be our children.

Members of the House, we are determined to put the citizen at the top of our priorities. I am asking all of you to remember that it is not the people who serve us, but it is we who serve the people. The education of our children will be the primary service to Israel's citizens. We will make every possible effort to institute a long school day in development towns and in low-income neighborhoods already in the upcoming school year, at

the end of the summer recess two months from now. There may be organizational difficulties, but we will try to overcome them nonetheless.

We will ensure equality between all school systems, including those in Arab and Druze locations. We will make every possible effort so that every Israeli may attend university, even if he or his parents are not wealthy. One of our main goals will be to strengthen the development towns. We will give priority to this issue by providing incentives. We will improve urban neighborhoods by guaranteeing community services that will meet the needs of education, health, and welfare.

Our concern will not only be given to the young generation. We intend to initiate a state pension law that will apply to all breadwinners, both salaried and self-employed. The pension funds will be under government control. We owe our senior citizens a dignified life, in keeping with our tradition of not neglecting our elderly.

We will make every possible effort to put a roof over the heads of new immigrants and to supply housing solutions to newly married couples, giving priority and assistance to demobilized soldiers. We send our youngsters to the hardest and most dangerous national missions and ignore them upon their safe return. The cheer: Hurrah for the IDF! also means seeing to the needs of the soldier once he completes his military service.

The government embarking on the road today considers the health of its citizens a very high priority. Comprehensive medicine does not only mean wishing good health to all but means the patient's rights by virtue of a state health law. The law will determine the public financing required to uphold a top quality, egalitarian public health system. Every Israeli citizen will qualify for health insurance that will be issued by the public sick funds. Most importantly, may we just be healthy!

It would be only fitting to admit that for years we erred in our attitude toward our Arab and Druze citizens. Today, almost 45 years after the foundation of the state, there are quite large gaps between the Jewish and the Arab sectors in many areas. On behalf of the new government, I would like to promise the Arab, Druze, and Bedouin population to make every possible effort to close those gaps. We will try to move toward ensuring the well-being of the minorities who have tied their fate to ours.

Binyamin Ze'ev Herzl said: All the deeds of man begin with a dream. We had a dream, we fought, and in the face of adversity and criticism, we established a safe haven for the Jewish people. This is the gist of Zionism; this is the realization of the dream of generations. In recent years, the gates have been opened to Jewish immigration. Hundreds of thousands have come here from all ends of the earth, especially from Russia and other CIS republics, to revive their Jewish lives. We are their home and family. We have no closer kin than them. We must be their guides; we must absorb them in our midst in the spirit of Jewish love. The number of

immigrants has decreased in recent months, and we are sorry about this. The government will take action to resume and invigorate immigration, particularly from Russia and other CIS republics, and will pursue its efforts to rescue Jews persecuted for being Jews. Without all this, we will have no return to Zion and, after all, we are all returnees to Zion.

Exiles from many countries, communities, sects, religious affiliations, and cultures have gathered in this small country. It is no easy task to integrate all these into one people. In the meantime, we must nurture tolerance and patience and cultivate solidarity. Jewish heritage sustained the Israeli people through all its wanderings and exiles, and we consider it our duty to uphold the mutual link and affinity between the Israeli Government and Israel's heritage. Maintaining the unity of the people requires the creation of conditions for coexistence based on mutual respect between religious and secular people. We will not abide polarization and offending the feelings of observant Jews. We will see to the education of all Israeli children based on Jewish values, and we will continue to impart and will not impair these values.

The government will abstain from any form of religious and antireligious coercion by any side whatsoever. It will guarantee the public religious needs of all people, regardless of political influences and affiliation. All special allocations will be abolished. The defense minister will appoint a team, which he will head, to check and determine the criteria and procedures for the deferral of military service of yeshiva students in a bid to prevent the exploitation of the arrangements to this effect.

I believe that these moves, in full cooperation with the religious and ultra-Orthodox parties, will help curb polarization in our society and will foster unity among Israel's communities.

Members of the House, a long way and hard work lies ahead. We will complete the legislation of basic laws to bring about the formulation of a state constitution. We will treat the state comptroller's reports with utmost gravity, and we will eradicate any trace of corruption. We will at long last enforce the law that has already been legislated concerning the direct election of the prime minister and changing the system of elections to the Knesset. We will give special attention to the environment, to improving transportation and roads.

I would like to say a few words to the opposition parties. We are not deluding ourselves. We know full well that huge missions lie ahead of us. The struggle is long, and our efforts may meet up with difficulty. We will concern ourselves with deeds, and there are no deeds without mistakes. We anticipate your criticism, however caustic it may be, as long as it is constructive and concerns the future and fate of this people.

This is also a good opportunity to ask you, members of the House, that we do everything in our power to elevate the stature of the Knesset, to conduct ourselves politely

and responsibly. The Israeli people watch us on television every evening, and you should not criticize them because you are a reflection of them. Your image is reflected in the national mirror, and we are treated accordingly. The government turns over a new leaf today. I suggest that all of us, members of the Knesset, turn over a new leaf in our relations with those who have sent us here.

Members of the Knesset, today we placed on the Knesset's table the basic guidelines of the new government and all the documents pertaining to the establishment of the government, including the coalition agreements. There are not and there will be no secret agreements; everything is out in the open and on the table, in keeping with the law.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to present to the Knesset the government I have formed in keeping with the task entrusted to me by his excellency, the president of the state, according to Article 15 of the Basic Law: The Government. I am asking the Knesset to express its confidence in the following government:

Yitzhaq Rabin—prime minister, defense minister, and minister in charge of the religious affairs portfolio and the labor and welfare portfolio until the appointment of other ministers;

Shulamit Aloni—minister of education and culture;
Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer—minister of construction and housing;

Uzi Bar'am—minister of tourism;

Arye Der'i—minister of the interior;

Mikha Harish—minister of industry and trade;

David Liba'i—minister of justice;

Ora Namir—minister of environmental affairs;

Shim'on Peres—minister of foreign affairs;

Ya'ir Tzaban—minister of immigrant absorption;

Ya'akov Tzur—minister of agriculture;

Yisra'el Qeysar—minister of transportation;

Amnon Rubinstein—minister of energy and infrastructure and of science and technology;

Hayim Ramon—minister of health;

Avraham Shohat—minister of finance;

Moshe Shahal—minister of police affairs and communications;

Shim'on Shetrit—minister of economy.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished Knesset, this is our declaration of intent, this is our identity card. These are the wishes we want to turn into reality. All I have said on behalf of the government and myself was said out of goodwill and a sincere intention to embark on a new road, to shed old attitudes, to establish here the country that every Jew, wherever he may be, will consider his home and the land of his dreams. Our entire policy can be condensed into one verse from the Bible: May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

Outgoing Prime Minister's Speech

TA1307165292 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1446 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Address by Yitzhak Shamir, outgoing prime minister and Likud leader, at the inaugural ceremony of the 13th Knesset in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] Knesset members, I would like first to congratulate Knesset Member [MK] Shevah Weiss on his election as Knesset speaker today and wish him success and satisfaction in his responsible duty.

Knesset members: I listened very closely to the remarks of MK Rabin. I reviewed the guidelines of his government, which today asked for the Knesset's confidence, and I saw the names of the ministerial candidates of this government. I must tell you, there is nothing new about them. More than indicating an upheaval, they are disturbing. The Israeli governing system has taken a step down. There is alienation from any Zionist and Jewish content. We see here an extreme reaction against all of the achievements of the national coalition led by the Likud.

Mr. Speaker, since the dawn of its history, the Jewish nation in Eretz Yisra'el... [changes thought] Incidentally, we did not hear the words Eretz Yisra'el even once in MK Rabin's speech. [heckling] Ever since the beginning of the Jewish nation's history in Eretz Yisra'el, it has known that it cannot exist without ideology, without an ideological infrastructure, without vision. This is all the more true when we speak of the State of Israel in this generation, which is seeing the ingathering of the exiles and Israeli society shaping up into a single nation. For many reasons, stemming from its past, world view, and the destiny of the Jewish nation, the Jewish state cannot exist without a unique ideological content. We will not exist for long if we become just another country that is mostly devoted to the welfare of its residents. Starting here, the leaders of the nation must provide the young generation in Israel with an ideology upon which it will be educated and in the light of which it will act for the benefit of the nation and society. We must provide our sons and daughters with a motivation of value and challenge. The masses of immigrants who arrive here lacking any Zionist education need an intensive Jewish-Zionist education and an example of how the Zionist idea is implemented.

We were told that a change will be made in the order of national priorities, but what was presented before us today contains no vision, and the tendency to neglect the future for the sake of immediate achievements—short-lived and shortsighted—is clearly visible. It aspires for peace now, for achievements now, at the expense of basic national goals. If the things we heard today have any real substance, it is similar to a nihilistic philosophy, which will cost us dearly in the course of time. According to the job description, the education minister is in charge of teaching values to the young generation in Israel. The candidate for this position will not be able to carry out

this task. Judging from remarks she has made throughout her political career, it can be assumed that she will distance any affiliation with the Jewish heritage from the school system. Any reference to the national aspect of Israel's tradition and its linkage with Eretz Yisra'el will be nullified. Therefore, the concern many in Israel have expressed when they heard that MK Aloni had been appointed education minister is justifiable.

Mr. Speaker, the results of the elections were termed an upheaval, as if the public had turned its back on the national camp and placed its confidence in the left-wing bloc, placing it in charge the fate of this nation and the management of its affairs. Presenting the results of the elections in this way does not coincide with the facts, and all members of the Knesset should pay attention to this. A thorough review of the elections results will prove that the majority of the Israeli votes gave their vote to the movements and parties that explicitly stated their affiliation with a national coalition led by the Likud.

Over the past 15 years, there has been a tight, harmonious cooperation between the Likud and the religious parties. This was not only due to political needs and interests. The Likud Movement has always had a deep respect for religion and those observing its rites.

At the same time, there is another important aspect for the years-long understanding and closeness between the national Jew and the religious and ultra-Orthodox Jew in Eretz Yisra'el. For both groups, Eretz Yisra'el is not only another piece of land, it is not just a place to live. Above all, Eretz Yisra'el is a value; it is holy. Any conscientious Jew aware of his roots will never be able to treat Eretz Yisra'el as a commodity that could be traded on the stock exchange or in political negotiations, however important they may be. Eretz Yisra'el is one. There is no Greater Israel or non-Greater Israel. If I may paraphrase the poet: Just as there is only one sun, there is only one Jerusalem; and just as there is only one Jerusalem, there is only one Eretz Yisra'el; and just as there is a single Eretz Yisra'el, there is only one nation of Israel. Eretz Yisra'el is beyond coalition or opposition calculations. It has been the heart and soul of our nation since the beginning of time. We were exiled from it twice, but now we came back to it, never to abandon it again. It is the first word in the Scroll of Independence. It is fully in our hands today. We did not receive it as a gift from any person or element. The best of our sons fell protecting it, and making it ours, our sons', and their sons'.

Many around us, near and far, are harassing our country, questioning our right to it, aspiring to cut off parts of it to give them away to others. We, however, can and have to remain loyal to this precious deposit we have been given, and guard it with all our might. A Jew living in Eretz Yisra'el will never live under alien sovereignty, and the diaspora will never return to Eretz Yisra'el. The key to ensuring this is a deep and unquestionable belief that Eretz Yisra'el in its entirety is the eternal asset of the Jewish nation. That is why it is impossible that settlement throughout Eretz Yisra'el will not feature in the

guidelines of an Israeli government. The absence of this principle is tantamount to willingly giving away large segments of Eretz Yisra'el.

Knesset Members, one of the major differences between the outgoing and the incoming governments is that a government under the Likud took steps for the national economy and sectors of Israeli society while maintaining an overall vision of the good of the state. On the other hand, the incoming government, the one presented here today, includes parties that still are captive to extinct socialist ideologies. It is also known that this camp is still dominated by class interests and sectarian institutions that the state has no interest in supporting or sustaining. These institutions are of hundreds of millions in debt, and their leaders are already lined up in front of the Finance Ministry asking for public funds to bail them out of bankruptcy. The Israeli taxpayer will have to hand out enormous sums to subsidize them. This is perhaps the first true vision of this government.

The liberalization of the national economy has become the preferred, proved, and correct way to run the economies of most of the countries in the world. The outgoing government took steps in this direction. It introduced a policy of reducing government interference in the economy. It started moves to cancel absolutely supervision over foreign currency. It cut down income tax and started privatizing government-owned companies. It increased incentives for foreign investment here. Every Israeli citizen could feel the improvement of his economic status, as expressed in a rise in his well-being and quality of life, despite the vast expenses needed for the absorption of the large immigration over the past several years. There is doubt, therefore, that the government presented before the Knesset today can continue these operations.

The political chapter of the government guidelines promises us that the new government will promote the peace process and implement the autonomy plan. The Labor chairman aimed very high when he declared that all he wants to do is to implement the plan of Menahem Begin, God bless his soul, according to the Camp David and autonomy agreements. I do not know how many voters were misled by this presentation. After all, there is a very wide gap between the Labor platform and the Camp David accords, as Begin presented them and worked for their implementation. The Likud initiated the autonomy plan and managed to build the peace process, which started in Madrid, based on it. From the first day, the Likud did not hide its stand that when the time comes to negotiate the permanent solution, Israel will demand sovereignty over Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. The Likud also stipulated and implemented the principle that throughout the process, the right of Jews to settle in any part of Eretz Yisra'el will never be prevented. Despite the opposition of many in the world and in the region, the settlement drive of Jews throughout Israel has never stopped, including Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, with no distinction among the regions.

There is not a shred of doubt that the sole guarantee that the establishment of an Arab entity west of the Jordan River will be prevented is Jewish settlement throughout Eretz Yisra'el, its cities, farms, communities, and industrial parks. That is why there is nothing more insulting and disturbing than the artificial distinction between the so-called security and political settlements. Throughout the history of settlement in Eretz Yisra'el, since the first pioneers at the turn of the century until this day, there was no distinction between kosher and nonkosher settlement, between a political and a security settlement. During the Camp David days, and in renewing the process at this time, the Likud proved that progress toward peace can be made without concessions on substantive issues. The new government comes to cancel this achievement, and to return to the thesis, the one it shares with the Arabs and defeatist circles among us, that peace cannot be attained without dangerous concessions. The national public in Israel adamantly opposes a repartition of Eretz Yisra'el, and will not allow the establishment of an Israeli Government that would prevent Jews from residing in any part of Eretz Yisra'el. The settlers in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza deserve our praise. They are the pioneers, and their important contribution to securing the Israeli nation in Eretz Yisra'el will go down in history.

MK Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister-designate, has announced on more than one occasion that he intends to exacerbate the negotiations for the establishment of autonomy and has even set a time frame of nine months for it. Such declarations will enhance the expectations and appetite of the other side. It is not clear what the State of Israel will gain from them. Such declarations and announcements will yield intolerable pressure on Israel to pull out of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza quickly and return to the suffocating borders of 1967.

The outgoing government insisted that the autonomy negotiations be attended by Arab representatives who are residents of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, and not by residents of Jerusalem or foreign residents. The reasons for this are clear: The incorporation of an Arab representative of Jerusalem would have made our capital Jerusalem an issue for negotiations—in contradiction with Israel's determined stand, which is that our capital is not, and will never be, subject to any form of negotiations. I urge the next government and those who will conduct the negotiations to be very careful on this essential issue. Do not place a question mark on united Jerusalem, the eternal capital of the Israeli people and the Jewish nation.

According to the Camp David accords, to which Yitzhaq Rabin pledges allegiance, the autonomy is explicitly intended to find a solution for the Arab residents of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. There is no political solution inside Israel for Arabs who, for various reasons, moved to other countries. The only human and political solution for these people is settling them in the countries of their residence. Any attempt to incorporate this group

of people in the process of arrangements will undermine Israel's security and endanger its future.

Much has been said over the past several months about our relations with the United States. It is an undisputed fact that over the last 15 years, and thanks to our efforts, the bilateral relations and cooperation between Israel and the United States have progressed and strengthened enormously. The basis of the friendship and cooperation between us and the United States is solid and firm. The U.S. leaders claim the same. The occasional differences are natural, but we must not agree to making aid conditional on political concessions. This is a dangerous path which, in time, might undermine Israel's independence and maneuverability in the peace process.

Mr. Speaker, it should be stated in conclusion that the government which is presented to the Knesset today lacks vision, lacks an ideological message, and its composition is largely inclined to the radical left of the political spectrum. This is a government whose policy will be influenced if not led by people who advocate negotiations with the terror organizations which rule out the existence of Israel and aspire to its liquidation in stages.

Israel's eternity, however, will not lie. I am certain that it will not be long before the majority of the people in Israel understand the substantive difference between the road on which the Likud led the state to great achievements in all spheres and the regressive and defeatist road of the presented government which leads to withdrawals in all political and social spheres.

The Israeli people will wake up and draw the conclusions and will return to the high road of a brave and correct policy which focuses on the integrity of the people and the constant bolstering of the integrity of Eretz Yisra'el. This is the only road which will guarantee security and peace, and will maintain the eternal goals of the Jewish people.

We will not express confidence in this government. Thank you.

Rabin Sums Up Political Debate

*TA1307214592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1902 GMT 13 Jul 92*

[Address by Prime Minister-designate Yitzhaq Rabin summing up the political debate following the presentation of the new government—live]

[Text] Indeed, there are many differences between us and the Likud in terms of our approach and perception, but I will only mention three main issues.

The main one pertains to peace and security. I believe that the moment the Israeli people decided their country would be founded here, in the land of Israel, they also decided who our neighbors would be. The moment we decided that the Jewish state can be founded here, and only here, in the land of Israel, we decided that over 100

million people in the Arab countries and the Palestinians would be our neighbors. There are only two alternatives in the ensuing reality: either to make a serious effort to attain peace—peace coupled with security, and I have stated on numerous occasions that peace that does not give security is meaningless—or else live by the sword forever. I think that no Israeli government can look its citizens in the eye and not do its very best to promote the making of peace without impairing security. An example was set when, to attain peace with an Arab country, we gave back the last grain of sand we occupied in the Six-Day War. I believe such a precedent will never ever recur. The political effort spelled out in our basic guidelines does not attest to such a direction. Today, too, I consider the making of peace between us and the Palestinians in the territories an important issue that may be resolved without impairing Israel's security, whereas that is not the case with regard to other aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Moreover, Israel is a state ruled by law. The moment an Israeli government undertakes an international commitment that is later ratified by the Knesset, such a commitment is binding on future governments. I am talking about the Camp David accords and the outgoing government's decision—I hope it decided so—on the Madrid format. These are binding, insofar as they were international commitments. Therefore, we are sure that not enough was done in the talks with the Palestinian inhabitants of the territories to promote what I believe Israel committed itself to: self-rule for the Palestinians or autonomy. I am not talking of municipal autonomy—they almost have that—but of self-rule, as is written and spelled out in the Camp David accords.

I am not 100-percent sure that we will attain that. As prime minister and a member of the government, I would like to feel that the best has been done and that Israel's security has not been impaired in the process. In my opinion, the actions taken by the outgoing government and the way it conducted the negotiations in Madrid and afterward did not exhaust the chances and, what is more, hurt them. Each time Baker visited a settlement had to go up. Things were done that definitely did not demonstrate a serious intention to test the feasibility of these chances.

We have always distinguished between settlement along Israel's confrontation lines bordering with the Arab countries that insist on being in a state of war with us—incidentally, this is manifest in the Army, in the organization of our regional defense, and the classification of development areas—and settlement that is just plain settlement. I believe the so-called goodwill to exhaust the chances of peace did not square with the vast settlement effort made over the last two and a half years. Enormous sums of money were taken from the state budget—either in short-term contracts or through long-term obligations—not to settle along the confrontation lines or to meet Israel's genuine security needs. The purpose of this onslaught was only political. We can distinguish between these two forms of settlement:

timing, circumstances, and volume tell whether there is really goodwill to realize our international commitment, to implement the interim arrangement, autonomy, and self-rule.

I will not cite press interviews, but I do not think anybody examining the process could discern a serious effort on the part of the government to fulfill its international commitments. To wit, it retreated from its pledge to hold general elections to holding municipal elections.

Herein lies the difference between us. We, too, cannot conceive of impairing Israel's security. I think there is a chance of making progress toward the first phase of an interim arrangement between us and the Palestinians. There is a chance that such an arrangement may allay tensions and mitigate hatreds, and in due course it could create a new reality, which would enable solutions that may not exist today and a peaceful coexistence between us and the Palestinians.

The second difference lies in our national order of priorities. The former USSR opened its gates to emigration to Israel, and this brought here a vast number of immigrants. Economic and social problems ensued, some of them being the cumulative effect of unsolved problems. Demobilized soldiers could not find work, and the demand for jobs increased due to the arrival of the immigrants. Should national priority be given to huge investment in the territories, or to fighting unemployment and improving education? Excuse me for saying this, but the Likud lost some of its devoted voters in the low-income neighborhoods and in the development towns—the very same people who probably brought you to power—because they disagreed with your national priorities, with your investment in the low-income neighborhoods and the development towns. Who will invest today in Qiryat Shemona if he can get the same—or even better conditions—in Barqan, 30 minutes away from Tel Aviv? Why should a resident of Dimona, Beersheba, Netivot, or Ofaqim believe that somebody will invest money in a factory in their town when he can get the same—or even better—conditions a 30-minute drive from Tel Aviv or Netanya? I say it was a distorted national order of priorities, a distorted national order of priorities!

That is why we want to make a change. We want to create different conditions, distinguishing between security settlement along the confrontation lines and in greater Jerusalem and those in the regions where what I regard today as political settlements are being set up. In general, I believe that regardless of the argument over Greater Israel, you should have addressed yourselves to the distress of large segments of the Israeli population, hundreds thousands of Israeli citizens, rather than investing what you invested in the settlements. These are two aspects we will change. We will try, using the Madrid format, more seriously to make good on our international commitment to set up self-rule, autonomy, for the Palestinians, based on Camp David. This can be done.

The third issue is that of diverting resources—whatever is left, since we do not intend to break the law—to regions stricken with unemployment and social distress, where education was affected, where there are not enough classes. We will change all those things related to more freedom for the citizen—in elections and in a freer economy. At the same time, when we speak of attaining national goals, there will be government guidance.

The fourth thing is changing the electoral system to one of direct election of the prime minister by the entire public. Later we may perhaps change the Knesset electoral system. In practice, the Likud torpedoed the opportunity to introduce a truly democratic reform, and I know that quite a few of you in the Likud wanted this. Still, the Likud prevented a significant democratic reform that could have changed domestic politics greatly. It could have spared us of the phenomena that any party trying to form a government is forced to meet.

We are in disagreement on these issues and others. We maintain different attitudes. Our vision is primarily a State of Israel that is a Jewish state in which non-Jews live as well, which encompasses Jewish values and culture, which absorbs immigration, and in which a progressive society lives and runs a healthy economy. A state that aspires for peace while being able to defend itself and the security of its citizens in the best possible way. This is our vision.

I heard a Likud Knesset member say on television recently that the Likud has turned Greater Israel into a religion. It was willing to hurt the national tasks it has always promoted. That is why a change took place in the nation. The change was made in a democratic fashion, and found its expression here today in the presentation of the government made of the three parties that I have mentioned before.

I will conclude my remarks by saying: This is an hour of grace. This is a unique opportunity, in light of the international circumstances and the opening of the gates of former USSR for the Jews to leave. The world is different today and the Middle East is also a little different. The Arab leaders who are hostile to Israel no longer enjoy a Soviet umbrella over their heads. That is why I believe that the government to which the Knesset will show confidence tonight will prove that things can be different, that things could be better, that the things that are really important for the people and the state can be attained. Thank you.

Qualifications of Rabin Cabinet Questioned

TA1407114392 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
14 Jul 92 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "A President and Not a King"]

[Text] When the election results became known, party hacks drunk with victory received Yitzhaq Rabin by chanting "Rabin, king of Israel." With the presentation

of the new government, it is clear that Rabin does not want to be king at all. He wants to be president, U.S. style, if not more than that.

As prime minister, he will consult each morning with the defense minister on military subjects. As defense minister, he will report loyally to the prime minister about the situation in the field, and both will decide unanimously on how to act. As coordinator of the autonomy issue, he will consult with the person responsible for the territories. On peace issues, Rabin—as the one leading the peace effort—will consult with the prime minister and coordinate fully with Rabin the defense minister, who will be in charge of contacts with the Palestinians. The government, in short, is put together in such a way as to give Rabin powers not only as the military commander in chief and as the person in charge of the peace process, but also as chief executive. A U.S. president, not a king.

There are 10 new ministers in his government, some less suited to the portfolios that befell them and some more. It is clear that some of the ministers will learn their new vocations at the expense of the Israeli people. This government does not back up Rabin's forceful speech on victory night, when he said that he ("I") will appoint ministers according to their qualifications and not their affiliations and that he ("I") will no longer give in to blackmail in distributing portfolios.

From what has been leaked about the fight over portfolios, it is clear that his resolute declarations have not been completely fulfilled. Avraham Shohat, who lacks experience but is loyal to Rabin, was preferred to Amiram Sivan as finance minister. Mikha Harish, who last week got carried away in talking about his expertise in foreign affairs, found himself minister of industry and commerce. Even that he only got after blowing up in Rabin's office and stalking out, slamming the door so hard that a picture fell from the wall. Since his expertise in industry and trade is as good as mine in the production of marbles, it appears that the economy has been given to somebody not exactly because of his talent but rather his affiliation and pressure. The government is therefore starting out by allocating its second most important issue to ministers who are starting first grade.

The appointment of Shim'on Peres as foreign minister also does not exactly fit the principle that he will not give in to pressures and affiliations. After making him cool his heels for a while, in the end Rabin took in Peres and his buddies Yosi Beilin and Nimrod Novak.

What Uzi Bar'am knows about tourism is limited to his personal knowledge about business lunches at the Dan Hotel when he was Labor secretary general at 110 Hayarqon Street. Rabin kept the defense portfolio for himself, a move which can be taken to mean that Rabin did not find among all those encircling him one single person suitable to be entrusted with the state's security. Mordekhay Gur, who once had pretensions of becoming prime minister, managed to become deputy minister—a

job previously held by Mikha'el Deqel and 'Ovadya Eli. A not insignificant number of party hacks who have never been ministers are now entering a new world, and the whole makeup of the cabinet is somewhat dull and unexciting. If it does carry a rosy message, it is being well hidden from us for the time being.

The most striking thing about the composition of the government is that it is set up to serve Rabin's goal of concentrating all the functions he regards as of the highest priority for himself. He will conduct the bilateral ties with the United States; he will lead the autonomy talks; he will formulate the defense policy and the policy in the territories; he will deal with the battlefield of the future; and he will take over contacts with the Palestinian leadership. The key words in his agreement with Shim'on Peres were that "the Foreign Ministry will operate in its present setup." There is a catch to that, because "in its present setup" means the framework in which David Levi is operating, where the prime minister and his advisers have confiscated all the important things, except for his hair blower.

The new government is primarily made up of politicians known for their long-time loyalty to Rabin and those who will soon also declare their loyalty to him. In other words, this is a government built in such a way as to assure Rabin total freedom of action. Within a short time, his two ministries will be filled with energetic advisers, who will concentrate in their own hands the issues with which he will be dealing—a sort of unofficial national security council, similar to that which U.S. Presidents have. If he can only find something similar to Camp David, then the picture of the new regime will be complete.

In his speech presenting the government in June 1974, Rabin promised to bring peace. This time that was also the main message. The difference between then and now is that this time Rabin set up for himself a mechanism enabling him to reach for that objective with determination and speed. After "the kings of Israel" proved so disappointing, who knows? Perhaps the presidential format will prove itself. I can only wish the new prime minister luck.

Palestinians React to Rabin Knesset Speech

Al-Husayni on 'Important' Speech

TA1307174292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1700 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] Following is a first reaction by the Arabs in the territories to Rabin's speech: Faysal al-Husayni said that this is an important speech by an Israeli leader. He told our correspondent Moti Amir that Rabin raised several important points in referring to the regional peace process and the Palestinians. Al-Husayni stressed that this evening he and his colleagues will study the content of the speech by the prime minister-designate and will make a formal reaction at a news conference in East Jerusalem tomorrow morning.

'Change in Attitude' Hailed

TA1407112692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
1000 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Palestinian leaders in the territories have reacted cautiously to yesterday's speech by Yitzhaq Rabin in the Knesset. At the moment, there are no plans to meet in Jerusalem with the prime minister. Palestinian leaders were speaking in East Jerusalem this morning. More from reporter Mark Weiss:

[Begin recording] [Weiss] Faysal al-Husayni said the prime minister's speech was intended for the Israeli public and stressed that no formal invitation to meet in Jerusalem has been received. What is important, al-Husayni said, is a change in attitude.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi was even more dismissive of the prime minister's invitation:

['Abd-al-Shafi] As long as this invitation comes within the context of his speech, with the stipulations that were made in his speech, this is not really encouraging to accept the invitation.

[Weiss] Why?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Because of what he said in his speech.

[Weiss] What did you oppose in his speech?

['Abd-al-Shafi] He put limitations about what Israel is prepared to do. He, in essence, meant to say that we should not expect any Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

[Weiss] In your opinion, is there now a greater chance for peace?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Ah, it's difficult for me to say this. We have to wait and see what will be presented on the negotiating table.

[Weiss] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi made it clear that the Palestinians totally reject any distinction between political and security settlements and are still demanding a total freeze on all settlements in the territories.

On a more positive note, Faysal al-Husayni said there is clearly a difference between the Rabin and Shamir governments. Shamir, he said, was determined not to negotiate, whereas Rabin hopes to push the peace process forward through negotiations. He also made it clear that the tactics of the intifadah can change and may be altered in response to Israeli steps.

Dr. Riyad al-Maliki, identified with the Popular Front, made it clear that opposition to the peace talks by radical elements will continue, despite the change in the Israeli Government. [end recording]

[A related report on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 14 July carries a recording of al-Husayni speaking in Hebrew and saying: "It is impossible. I regard Jerusalem as my city, as my capital [preceding

word in English], and Rabin thinks the same. Therefore, we must negotiate and discuss this issue, but he cannot come out and declare what belongs to him. This is not how negotiations are conducted."

[Referring to Rabin's call to meet in Jerusalem, al-Husayni says: "I heard him on television, but it was unclear to whom he was appealing: 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali or somebody else. We are right here in Jerusalem and he can call us directly, not from television."]

Foreign Minister Peres on Peace Process

TA1407061292 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0500 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Gay Zohar and Li'ora Nir—live]

[Text] [Nir] Good morning to the new foreign minister, Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] And a very good morning to you.

[Nir] Let us ask you the same question we asked our political correspondent. Why are the Americans in such a rush that they already phoned us last night?

[Peres] One must first remember that an election campaign is also under way in the United States. Every passing day brings the United States closer to the election maelstrom. Therefore, I welcome the fact that Washington rolled up its sleeves at once.

[Nir] Do you not fear that the pressure the United States is putting on Israel will work to its advantage and our detriment?

[Peres] I do not think that we are under any pressure. We ourselves are interested in peace. We cannot be pressured, as we ourselves desire peace so much.

[Nir] Yes, but the scheduled nine-month timetable, promising though it may be, can also turn out to be detrimental. Perhaps we will have to adopt hasty decisions. Maybe we will not have time to think things out.

[Peres] Nine months are a very long time, just as 10 years can sometimes be a waste of time. After all, the plan was to waste 10 years. I do not think the world will come to a stop just because we need more time. We should not be looking for time but rather for solutions. In my opinion, the sooner we act the better.

[Zohar] Foreign Minister Peres, the Arab world has so far expressed some optimism, together with a certain degree of wariness. Is there any reason, as Yitzhaq Shamir asserted in his Knesset speech yesterday, for the new Labor-led government to invite additional pressure, perhaps invite....

[Peres, interrupting] What pressure? Mr. Rabin yesterday clarified Israel's positions and exactly what we are prepared and not prepared to do. I do not see how these positions can be eroded with time. In general, one must

differentiate between public statements and practical positions. This is only natural, and I am not surprised that the Arabs are showing a bit of caution. After all, in the Middle East caution is very common and apprehension is endemic, while few decisions and little progress are made. We must change the proportion between these things.

[Nir] Mr. Peres, do you expect the process to basically follow the same lines it has pursued up till now, with conferences in Rome and other locations, or do you expect Mr. Rabin's invitation to the Arab leaders to lead to some sort of breakthrough or dramatic event that will change its direction?

[Peres] Look, I am not sure that there are many al-Sadats in the Arab world today. I am not sure that the invitation will be accepted; however, we have already expressed our interest in holding continuous negotiations that will not get bogged down on minor issues. An entire year was almost wasted in 1991 over the grandiose issue of where the conference would take place: Rome or Washington. What is the big difference? In the end, it was held in Washington, of course. So why waste a year? What is so important?

[Zohar] Okay, but we also have partners, and they are not easy either. Up till now, they have wasted time on setting an agenda.

[Peres] I am not talking about our partners. I am referring to our own decisions. Partners are partners, but I am talking about our own strategy. In my opinion, our strategy should not get bogged down on the location of the negotiations but rather should focus on their direction. One can hold good negotiations in Washington and bad negotiations in Rome. The Camp David accords, for example, were signed in Washington.

[Zohar] Speaking of Camp David, perhaps we should make use of the meeting in Rome in another month or 45 days in order to upgrade the level of talks to the level of foreign ministers, as in Madrid? Then we can really sit down for as long as is required in order to truly make progress.

[Peres] Look, I am not going to say one word about all this. The truth is that I only began studying these details last night, and I will only meet with the Foreign Ministry staff this morning to learn what the problems are. I will then try to consolidate my positions. I am also meeting with Rabin this morning to coordinate things. I would not like to make premature policy statements just because you nice IDF interviewers phoned me with your questions so early in the morning.

[Nir] But this new program will have to be formulated and disseminated among the various staff levels.

[Peres] Certainly.

[Nir] Who will be in charge of this: the Prime Minister's Office or the Foreign Ministry?

[Peres] Naturally, the two ministries must work together on such issues. The prime minister will be in charge of the autonomy plan with my participation and cooperation.

[Zohar] Foreign Minister Peres, we were in such a hurry to start the interview that we forgot to congratulate you.

[Peres] Yes, you forgot. You see how hard it is to congratulate anyone in Israel. [laughs]

[Nir] I apologize.

[Peres] Think nothing of it. I congratulate IDF Radio. I understand you were hard at work all night, and I appreciate it very much. I hope the country will really see better days, a period of peace and security.

[Zohar] Thank you, Mr. Peres.

Vows Not To Exclude Syria

TA1407103792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
1000 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] As we broadcast, Shim'on Peres is taking over from David Levi at a ceremony on the lawn at the Foreign Ministry. A short while ago, Peres said neither Syria nor any other neighboring country would be excluded from the Middle East peace negotiations. Our reporter Jack Katzenell asked Peres what he expected to achieve in the talks with Secretary of State James Baker when he arrives in Israel next week:

[Begin recording] [Peres] To renew the peace process in a very serious manner, to start right away. We are anxious, we are not under pressure, we are under preference to go ahead with the peace negotiations, to start it as early as possible and to continue as strongly as necessary.

[Katzenell] Do you agree with Mr. Rabin's policy of putting Syria on the back burner as the last of the priorities in the peace process?

[Peres] I do not want to make any declarations. I am just a few hours foreign minister. I think we are going to continue the comprehensive peace effort, and we are not going to exclude any possibility.

[Katzenell] Mr. Levi said it was an unnecessary disclosure of the prime minister and now Syria is sabotaging the process and has already reached agreement with Jordan and Egypt.

[Peres] That is normal. Mr. Levi is from this morning in the opposition, so one should not be surprised that he is opposing the policy. But we are not going to exclude, as I have said, any opportunity or any possibility or any country. [end recording]

Levi Says Syria To Sabotage Peace Process
TA1407050692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0400 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Former Foreign Minister David Levi said that he has explicit information that Syria will make a special effort to sabotage the peace process in light of Prime Minister Rabin's statements that the discussion over the future of the Golan Heights will be put off until the final stage of the peace process. Knesset Member Levi told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that even if this is Rabin's intention, he should not have made any public statements to that effect because this foolishly exposed his political hand. Levi asserted that political coordination has already been established between Syria, Egypt, and Jordan in a bid to thwart Rabin's plans.

Mubarak Expresses Hopes for 'Fruitful Cooperation'
TA1407112992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1100 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has received a message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. The Egyptian leader expressed his hope for fruitful cooperation toward peace. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the message was delivered to Minister Peres by Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni.

Our correspondent adds that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker tried to reach Mr. Peres by phone last night, but could not get through due to technical difficulties. Mr. Peres assumed his duties at the Foreign Ministry this morning and will meet with senior ministry officials this afternoon.

Labor Agreement With ADP, HADASH Noted
TA1307105492 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
13 Jul 92 p A2

[Report by party affairs correspondent Ilan Shehori]

[Text] Labor leaders reached an understanding yesterday with the leaders of HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] and the ADP [Arab Democratic Party] concerning their support for the Rabin-led government. Yesterday Labor sent separate letters to MK [Knesset Member] Tawfiq Zayyad, the head of HADASH, and MK 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah, the head of the ADP, confirming the agreements between Labor and the two parties.

According to the letter to Darawshah, the two parties will establish a joint committee to implement decisions relating to the Arab sector as agreed between the two parties. Labor promises, among other things, that the government will act toward the full incorporation of Arab and Druze citizens of Israel in every sphere of the state's life, while respecting their singular religious and cultural character, and toward achieving equality between all citizens.

The letter further states that "the government will act to close the gap between the Jewish and Arab communities in the areas of education, industry and trade, agriculture, housing, youth, and health services. The government will act to equate the Arab and Druze municipal authorities' budgets and number of manpower slots to those of the Jewish local authorities. Special efforts will be invested in finalizing outline plans for Arab and Druze townships.

"A special committee will be established to address the problems of the waqf. It will act to amend the law defining the property of the Muslim waqf as absentees' property and to bring it under the management of members of the Muslim community, as is the property of other communities. A planning and construction committee will be set up in each Arab local council whose population exceeds 10,000. Plans for the construction and financing of sewage systems in Arab villages will be drafted at once."

Darawshah's party is further ensured that the Education and Culture Ministry, together with the Arab MK's and other representatives of the Arab community, will look into the possibility of establishing a higher education institution whose courses would be conducted in Arabic and which would be open to all Israelis.

"The policy of allocating state land for public causes and institutions will continue and be expanded. A committee will be established to examine the irrigation of the Netofa Valley lands; it will submit its recommendations within six months. The relocation of Bedouin in existing townships will continue.

"The official status of the Arab language in government offices, public institutions, and public signboards will be honored in practice. The civil service and public institutions will employ Arab university graduates and intellectuals. The Public Sports Council will ensure the establishment of appropriate institutions and the development of various athletic fields."

The agreement between the two parties further stipulates that "a special ministerial committee headed by the prime minister will be established to address the issue of the Arab and Druze sectors with the aim of implementing the principle of equality between them and other Israeli citizens. Within six months, the committee will draft a budgeted five-year plan reducing the gaps and introducing equality in services and in Arab local authorities' budgets. The committee will operate the plan at a regular annual rate.

"Among other things, the committee will reexamine the mergers between local authorities, which were carried out without the local authorities' consent. The committee will adopt a positive view in examining the plan for the allocation of resources for independent housing construction in Arab townships. The committee will adopt a positive view in examining the possibility of the restoration of Arab neighborhoods in places such as Haifa, 'Akko, Yafa, Ramla, and Lod."

The document sent to the HADASH leader was generally composed of the assurances granted to the ADP. The HADASH document includes additional clauses stating that a special committee will address the status of Arab population centers and buildings which are not recognized by the authorities with the objective of resolving their problems within a year. The two parties further agreed to establish a joint follow-up committee that will deal with the implementation of the clauses of the agreement and discuss current affairs pertaining to Knesset activities and various areas of legislation.

Hamas, Fatah Form 18 Committees To Enforce Accord

TA1407045992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0400 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Another agreement has been signed between Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza Strip to end the violence between the two groups. In a pamphlet distributed in the Strip, it was announced that 18 committees have been set up to enforce the agreement. Anyone breaking the pact will be considered to be cooperating with the Israeli authorities. Four Rafah residents were injured last night in fights between the two groups.

In the territories, a body was brought to Nabulus' al-Ittihad Hospital last night. An initial check determined the dead person was 27-year-old 'Imad Tawil, from the Janin area village of Jaba'. The man had been shot. Military sources told reporter Mark Weiss that the man was wanted by the security forces for a series of alleged offenses, including murder and torture of local residents suspected of cooperating with the authorities. Samaria police have opened an investigation into the incident.

Two Nabulus residents were lightly injured last night when a hand grenade was thrown at an Army patrol in the town. Soldiers opened fire in response.

Two petrol bombs were thrown at an Army patrol in the Bethlehem area village of al-Haddadah. One of the devices ignited on the road, but no one was injured.

An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was lightly hurt last night in a rock-throwing incident at the village of Bal'a, near Tulkarm. The Army clamped a curfew on the area.

Near the settlement of Adam, near Ramallah, soldiers spotted two Arabs throwing stones at Israeli cars. The soldiers opened fire, and the two Arabs fled.

PLO List Sweeps Qalqilyah Chamber Elections

TA1407073892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0600 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] The National List, which is identified with the mainstream of the PLO, has won the elections to the Qalqilyah Chamber of Commerce. It won eight of the

nine seats on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. The Islamic List, which is affiliated with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], won one seat.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that approximately 900 merchants participated in the elections. When the results became known, hundreds of Qalqilyah residents took to the streets to celebrate the victory over the Islamic List.

Undercover Units Fire on Hamas March; Gaza Dies

TA1307044392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0400 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] A Gaza resident has been killed and an undercover soldier wounded, after soldiers dressed as Arabs infiltrated a march by Islamic fundamentalists in Gaza city. In Jerusalem, the wave of car torchings continues. Mark Weiss reports:

The trouble in Gaza began when undercover unit soldiers disguised as Arabs joined a march of 20 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in Gaza city. Some of the local residents were masked, and some carried axes and clubs. According to the Army spokesman, the Hamas activists attacked an officer and the soldiers opened fire. One soldier was lightly wounded, along with six local residents, and, according to the Army spokesman, one of the Hamas activists was beaten to death by mistake by his comrades. According to local Palestinian sources, the undercover soldiers caused confusion among the Hamas activists, who suspected they were Fatah supporters.

In the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus last night, shots were fired at a Border Police patrol. No one was injured and a curfew was imposed on the camp.

In Jerusalem, the car torchings continue. Three vehicles were set on fire in the Neve Ya'aqov neighborhood overnight, and inflammatory material was found on five other cars. Earlier, a car traveling on the Neve Ya'aqov road was stoned, and the Israeli driver was lightly injured.

Al-Yarmuk Waters Diverted With Jordan's Consent

TA1407090992 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
14 Jul 92 p 5

[Report by Hayim Bi'or]

[Excerpts] For several days Israel has been diverting into the Sea of Galilee part of the al-Yarmuk River which flows across the Israeli-Jordanian border. The action is being taken with the knowledge of the Jordanians and following an agreement between the two countries, according to sources involved in the matter.

Jordan recently changed its stand which had rejected diverting the al-Yarmuk to the Sea of Galilee. In the past,

King Husayn and his brother, Crown Prince Hasan, warned Israel against "a water war" over the use of these waters.

So far, the Jordan Valley water association, owned by the kibbutzim and moshavim in the region, has poured 3-5 million cubic meters of water into the Sea of Galilee at the instruction of Professor Dan Zaslavsky, the water commissioner.

Zaslavsky's order was handed down despite the fact that the lake is currently only 8 cm below its maximum water level, an exceptional occurrence for this season. Hydraulic engineers believe that the lake's level will be only about 15 cm lower by the end of the summer and will overflow already in the first half of the winter.

Meqorot, which supplies two-thirds of Israel's water needs, expressed surprise yesterday over the water commissioner's decision to divert the al-Yarmuk into the Sea of Galilee despite the concern that it will overflow onto agricultural lands and adjoining tourism sites. [passage omitted]

Avishay Amir, spokesman for the water commission, said yesterday in response that pumping water from the al-Yarmuk and diverting it to the Sea of Galilee is designed to solve local problems, but refused to say what these are. He said that the water commission is aware of the level of the Sea of Galilee at all times and that the highest level of pumping from the lake takes place in July and August. [passage omitted]

Islamists Reject U.S. Pressures, 'Aggression'

JN1407081192 Amman AL-RIBAT in Arabic
7 Jul 92 p 1

[Statement issued by the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan; date not given]

[Text] O masses of our people in the Jordan of mobilization and steadfastness:

The United States—the leader of the new world order that was devised to suppress nations, plunder their wealth, and break their will—is still persisting in bolstering its hegemony over our Arab and Islamic nation and dealing with its countries one at a time. The United States is also continuing to practice the ugliest forms of arrogance, economic blockade, and starvation, accompanied by military threat.

The United States has once again started to tighten sanctions on the Jordan of mobilization and steadfastness to try to impose its will on it, station its forces on its territory, and commit aggression against its sovereignty and dignity after besieging it economically.

This arrogant, disdainful U.S. position is only one episode in the black history of the United States with regard to dealing with our nation's issues, to abort plans for its progress and conspire against its ambitions and future.

The tempo of U.S. plotting against the land of the Jordan of mobilization and steadfastness is increasing, at the same time that the tempo of Zionist plotting against the land of the Palestine of martyrdom and jihad is increasing, through dwarfing the rights of the Arab Muslim Palestinian people to their land, wealth, sanctities, and a free, dignified life, into a frail self-rule plan as the ceiling of the ambitions of this struggling people.

That this plotting targets the rising Islamic awakening is no secret to anyone, since this awakening represents an impregnable bulwark in the face of plans that aim at humiliating the nation, fragmenting its ranks, controlling its wealth, and creating infighting and sedition among its sons.

O brothers in our dear Jordan:

Decades ago, particularly in the 50's, the United States tried to do the same thing it is doing today; namely, to force Jordan to accept U.S. forces on its territory. But the masses of our people refused to succumb to the will of the arrogant aggressor, and the Islamic movement, the Muslim Brotherhood, as well as national parties and forces, stood in the face of this conspiracy, and the masses took to the streets shouting "No To Peace With the Enemy; No to the Dollar; and No To Colonialism."

There is no doubt that the masses of Jordan, who are loyal to their pledge and their nation, are capable today of thwarting the conspiracy, resisting pressures and attempts at humiliation, and repeating their free, dignified decision and honorable stand.

While denouncing this U.S. belligerence and disdain and absolutely rejecting this hegemony, the Muslim Brotherhood calls on the honorable people to cohere in one body in a real, genuine national unity, just as they did during the Gulf crisis, and to reject international aggression against the nation and its capabilities. The Muslim Brotherhood also asks all those concerned—popular figures, officials, individuals, and institutions—to entrench the values of freedom and dignity and shura [consultation] in their private and public activities and prepare the nation morally and materially to face the dangers that threaten the homeland and the nation.

Achieving freedom, dignity, justice, and other high values stemming from the religion of the nation would guarantee the establishment of a dignified, conscious society that is capable of repulsing aggression and preserving the people's sovereignty and the homeland's invincibility.

"And God hath full power and control over His affairs; but most among mankind know it not" [koranic verses]

God is great and praise be to God.

Rabin's Knesset Speech Directed at U.S., West

JN1407101192 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
14 Jul 92 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Rabin Runs Forward"]

[Text] As we expected since the very beginning, new Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has chosen to bypass the peace process, run ahead of it, and evade its legitimate objectives. From the language he used in his speech in the Knesset yesterday, it is clear that he is addressing the U.S. and Western public opinion, which the Labor Party used to address in a language of peace at a time it was preparing for war.

Rabin spoke in calm language, in a deceptive, soft style, about Israel's alleged desire for peace.

While he failed even to refer to his government's readiness to abide by the international legitimacy resolutions, the principle of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, or recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian people, he declared his readiness to visit the capitals of the Arab countries bordering Israel and invited the leaders of these countries to visit Israel.

Instead of seeking to overcome the stalemate in the peace negotiations and remove the obstacles to peace set up by the collapsed government of Shamir, Rabin wanted to put the cart before the horse and began speaking about the peace process from its end.

It is noteworthy that Yitzhaq Rabin, on whose peaceful role the Bush administration has wagered, did not refer to his government's readiness to stop settlement building under the pretext that the security settlements are different from the political settlements.

It is clear from Rabin's Knesset speech that he seeks to divide the peace settlement and achieve unilateral agreements with the Arab sides.

Anyone who studies what Rabin said in the Knesset yesterday will see that he wants peace with nothing in return, that is, without withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. He wants to normalize relations with all Arab parties in return for nothing.

Rabin's speech, with its calm language and soft style is, in the first place, directed toward the U.S. Administration and the Western public opinion. Through this speech, he wants to obtain the U.S. loan guarantees as soon as possible and before the peace process makes any progress.

Hence, the Arab parties, particularly the countries bordering Israel which will soon hold a meeting, should pay attention to Rabin's speech and the malicious intentions it contained. Peace will never be realized through maneuvers but through clear and open recognition of the resolutions of the international community.

Rabin's Offer Not Way to 'Lasting Peace'

JN1407074092 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
14 Jul 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Peace Through Jerusalem"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's offer to come to Amman or go to Damascus and Beirut, and his invitation to the leaders of Jordan, Syria and Lebanon to go to Jerusalem to discuss peace in the Middle East could be sincere but is certainly not the way to lasting peace in the region. For even if Rabin was truly sincere in his offer he need not go far from where he is now in order to make peace with the Arabs. Nor should he invite Arab leaders from afar. The first step the new Israeli premier should take is not certainly across the River Jordan; rather it should be into East Jerusalem and Gaza where Faysal al-Husayni, Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi and their colleagues of Palestinian leaders reside. The core of the Middle East conflict is not hostility between Arabs at large and Israelis. It is between Israelis and Palestinians on the land of Palestine. When that conflict is resolved

for the satisfaction of both peoples and with their mutual agreement and understanding Prime Minister Rabin or any other Israeli leader or citizen will not find difficulty in travelling to other Arab lands. Instead of inviting the leaders of Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon the new leaders in Israel should in fact be inviting Yasir 'Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, who is the leader Rabin should get in touch with. It was 'Arafat who in fact on many occasions had expressed his desire to travel to Jerusalem and talk peace with Israeli leaders. Rabin and his colleagues should realise by this time at this stage in their political career that their country's conflict with the Arabs is over Palestine and the rights of the Palestinian people. They should furthermore realise that from among the Palestinians only the PLO and Chairman 'Arafat can give them peace. Perhaps Rabin could even be more modest in his approach to peace-making and start by clearing the roads from the obstacles that successive Israeli governments have erected in the path of peace. How about, for example, announcing a formal freeze of Jewish settlements in occupied Arab lands? How about a pledge to exchange territories for peace when the shape of a settlement is agreed upon through negotiations? He could and should pull out his troops from Arab towns and villages and let Palestinians run their own affairs as a prelude to Palestinian elections and Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The new Israeli leaders should remember that the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's visit to Israel in 1977 did not bring peace to Israel, the Palestinians, or the Arabs. Only two weeks ago Rabin was saying he wanted to conclude agreement with Palestinians as soon as possible before pursuing peace on other Arab fronts. Today he seems to be switching his priorities, however. Is he confused, as his Likud opponents might say? Or is he trying to confuse and deceive spectators? Or might Rabin be trying to deceive the consponsor of the peace process, the U.S., by outbidding everybody else with his rhetorics?

We do sincerely hope that Rabin is sincere and honest and we hope that soon he will sort his priorities and coordinate his steps and look closer for genuine solutions to a festering problem. When he does he will hear many voices welcoming those steps.

President's Office Responds to Iddih Letter

NC1407082092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0430 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Statement issued by the Presidency's Information Affairs Directorate on 14 July]

[Text] On 13 July some newspapers published an open letter from Raymond Iddih [self-exiled Lebanese leader in Paris] to his excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi pointing out the fact that Article 19 of the Constitution calls for the formation of a constitutional council, whose function is to oversee the constitutionality of laws and to decide on disputes and objections arising from presidential and parliamentary elections.

In his letter, Iddih calls for the suspension of the election bill until such a council is formed. He also reminds his excellency the president that it is his duty to respect the Constitution.

To explain the facts, the presidency wishes to inform the public in general and Raymond Iddih in particular that his excellency the president does respect the Constitution in every step he takes and every decision he makes. Regarding this specific subject, his excellency signed Decree 1964 on 28 November 1991 referring a bill on the formation of a constitutional council to parliament. Hence, the president has fully performed his duty on this matter. Out of respect for the Constitution and for the principle of the separation of powers, he cannot force parliament to approve the bill. Raymond Iddih should have sought personally or through his bloc's deputies in parliament to have this bill approved.

Holding elections before the formation of a constitutional council is not considered a violation of or a departure from the Constitution. Article 30 of the Constitution, which Iddih mentioned at the beginning of his letter, stipulates that deputies have the right to decide on the validity of their representation as long as no constitutional council has been formed.

Al-Sulh on Free Elections, Pressure on Israel

NC1407072392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0430 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh has stressed that the government will offer the necessary guarantees to all to hold free, democratic, and fair elections. He expressed his optimism about Lebanon's ability to overcome its difficult economic conditions, which are part of the world economic crisis.

Addressing the dean and members of the consular corps in Lebanon, he asked them to urge their governments to put pressure on Israel to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425 and withdraw from occupied Lebanese territory. [passage omitted]

SLA's Lahd Comments on Parliamentary Elections

NC1407085592 (Clandestine) Voice of the South
in Arabic to Lebanon 0730 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] At a news conference held yesterday, Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], asked whether the current circumstances and conditions are appropriate for holding parliamentary elections. He said: Is the freedom of expression secured through the presence of foreign armies still stationed in Lebanon? Is the Lebanese Government's bill on parliamentary elections consistent with constitutional rules or is it a blatant violation of them? Does this bill take into consideration the absolute right of all Lebanese to vote and express their choice at a time when the bill's sponsors know that security has not yet been established in several areas? Do the bill's sponsors know that one-third of the Lebanese cannot reach the polling stations?

Maj. Gen. Lahd added: If part of the south is occupied, so are most Lebanese areas. The Israeli Army's presence in some parts of the south is purely for security reasons and is not related to elections. Are the inhabitants of the border region and Jazzin the only ones who live under occupation? Are not the other Lebanese areas, from the capital, to the mountain, to the north, to al-Biq'a, under foreign occupation as well? If there are two occupations, why is there a distinction between them, unless the government considers southern citizen less immune, less mature, and less Lebanese than the citizens of other Lebanese areas. If this is so, it is an unacceptable affront to the dignity of the southern citizens.

Maj. Gen. said: The state does not have the right and it is impermissible for it to cast doubt on the citizenship of our people, their allegiance to Lebanon, and their adherence to their dignity and pride. If it insists on its current stand, it will deliberately open the door wide for various possibilities.

Statement Issued on al-Hirawi's Damascus Talks

NC1407063992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0430 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Statement issued by the Presidency's Information Affairs Directorate on 13 July]

[Text] President al-Hirawi returned from Damascus after holding a meeting with President al-Asad. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' later joined the meeting.

The talks dealt with the future of the peace conference in light of regional developments and the need to consolidate Arab solidarity during this delicate phase. The two sides affirmed the importance of brotherly cooperation between the two countries in various fields and completing implementation of the national accord document. They also reiterated Lebanon's right to liberate the south through implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425.

SLA Patrol Fires on 'Terrorist' Positions 12 Jul

*NC1307083892 (Clandestine) Voice of the South
in Arabic to Lebanon 0730 GMT 13 Jul 92*

[Text] An explosive device went off yesterday in the eastern sector of the border area near a South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol. No one was hurt. The SLA patrol fired on terrorist positions north of the area.

SLA, Resistance Exchange Gunfire in South

*NC1307091692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0815 GMT 13 Jul 92*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] REUTER reported that an exchange of gunfire occurred between resistance forces and the South Lebanese Army [SLA] today. It cited security sources as saying that the resistance shelled the village of Bayt Lif and its environs, located inside the security strip. No injuries have been reported.

UN sources in al-Naqurah said the SLA artillery shelled the villages close to Kafra and Yatar outside the security strip with heavy artillery, killing one resident.

Israeli Forces Shell Hizballah Village

*NC1307084592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0800 GMT 13 Jul 92*

[Text] A Lebanese security source said that the Israeli occupation forces shelled Yatar village, located near the occupied border strip, with around 50 heavy shells this morning. One resident was martyred.

Village residents have evacuated the village because of the constant shelling; only a small number of elderly remain there.

[Paris AFP in English at 0731 GMT on 13 July carries a similar report, datelined Tyre, that adds: "Israeli artillery bombarded a pro-Iranian Hizballah stronghold bordering the 'security strip' in southern Lebanon on Monday, killing a middle-aged man, Lebanese police said."]

Daily on Israel Maintaining 'Security Settlements'
JN1407093092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 14 Jul 92

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Peace and Security," TISHRIN writes: Now that the new Israeli Government has been formed, quarters of the ruling Labor Party have started to play the tune of giving precedence to security issues over peace and to highlight the need to maintain security settlements in the occupied Arab territories. The major pretext cited by these quarters is the argument that comprehensive withdrawal from the Golan and other territories threatens Israel's security and that maintaining Israeli occupation of some areas will guarantee and bolster this security. Hence, the reemergence of the argument of safe borders, which practically means that there is no desire to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

TISHRIN adds: The leaders of the Labor Party talk about the need to keep security settlements, bring in more settlers, and cling to Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel, meaning the Rabin government does not want to provide the appropriate requirements to advance the peace process.

The paper adds: The peace process was launched on the basis of exchanging land for peace. If the Rabin government is serious about the peace process, it should recognize UN resolutions that stipulate Israel's full and comprehensive withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, and recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people. As for seeking to keep the land, under whatever formula—political or security—and calling for a halt to resistance in light of continued occupation and settlement activity, this will not steer the peace process in the right direction.

Al-Asad Meets With Lebanon's al-Hirawi 13 Jul

JN1307184992 Damascus Syrian Arab Television
Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] At 1100 today, President Hafiz al-Asad met with Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' later joined the meeting.

Talks during both meetings, which were interrupted by a working lunch, dealt with bilateral relations and the situation in Lebanon. Talks also dealt with the regional situation and the peace process.

Omani Information Minister Meets al-Asad

JN1007183992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad al-Rawas praised his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, he said that meeting with the president is a lesson with historical meanings and dimensions that covers the region at an important stage in the march of the great Arab homeland.

The Omani minister said that during the meeting, President al-Asad expressed his aspirations for the peace process and the means to bridge relations between Arab states and obtain a solid base for the nation to rise to the level of modern challenges.

As for information cooperation between Syria and the Sultanate of Oman, the minister said: We put forth a two-year implementation program for the upcoming cooperation stage. We agreed on forming a follow-up committee, headed by the information ministers of the two fraternal countries, and meeting once every year in one of the two countries' capitals.

The minister congratulated the Arab people in Syria on their accomplishments despite all the challenges they are facing.

The Omani minister and delegation left Damascus at 1600 today after a four-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Four Killed in Fighting Near Kabul Airport

BK1407101892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1008 GMT
14 Jul 92

[Text] Kabul, July 14 (AFP)—At least four people were killed and several injured when fighting broke out in an area near Kabul Airport Tuesday, witnesses said.

The fighting still continued after two hours as heavy weapons fire boomed out around 7.45 a.m. (0315 GMT), they said.

The thud of shelling and rattle of machineguns rocked the city after several days of relative calm.

The clashes were taking place somewhere between the localities of Bebemahru and Microrayan government housing complex in northeast Kabul, about a kilometer and a half (one mile) from the presidential palace and at about the same distance from the civilian Khawaja Rawash Airport.

The affected part of the city is occupied by mojahedin of the Shura-e Nazar, Jam'iyat-e Eslami security forces controlled by Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the Kabul Garrison of General Momin and Uzbek militiamen under General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam.

It was not known exactly which groups were involved in the clashes.

No information was available immediately from the Defence Ministry and officials there said they would be able to say something later in the day.

The Uzbek military headquarters in the near-by Wazir Akbar Khan locality, where many diplomats reside, gave similar response to queries.

Witnesses said the injured were being taken to hospitals and that they saw some bodies lying on the ground in pools of blood.

Week-Long Lull Broken

WA1407055692 Paris AFP in English 0550 GMT
14 Jul 92

[Text] Kabul, July 14 (AFP)—A heavy barrage of shelling accompanied by intermittent machinegun firing rocked Kabul Tuesday morning, shattering a week-long lull in fighting in the tense Afghan capital.

The shelling started around 7.45 a.m. (0315 GMT) with more than fifteen shells fired within 30 minutes.

It was not immediately known who was engaged in the firing and whether shelling was directed at any target.

Armed mojahedin groups and powerful Uzbek militia, both equipped with heavy weapons, are present in the city.

The outbreak of shelling forced government employees on their way to work to head home.

Bangladesh

Burma Turns Down Offer for Border Talks

BK1407074692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0732 GMT
14 Jul 92

[Text] Dhaka, July 14 (AFP)—Burma has declined a Bangladeshi offer of talks this week to resolve problems on the repatriation of 270,000 Burmese Moslem refugees who have flooded across the border, official sources said Tuesday.

"The talks on Thursday will not take place as Burma has declined indicating they had some problems," a local official in the frontier Cox's Bazar District told AFP by telephone. But he could not say what the problems were that are stopping Rangoon officials from attending the talks.

The last round of formal talks were held on June 8 and the refugees, known as Rohingyas, have continued to trickle in.

Despite protests by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Bangladesh has begun fencing refugee camps, starting with those where violent demonstrations against repatriation took place in May, the sources said.

The step comes after the Rohingyas were reportedly fleeing refugee camps following an agreement between Dhaka and Rangoon in May to start their repatriation. Last week some 6,000 Rohingyas were said to be missing from the 15 camps.

Local officials had said the fencing would also help regulate movements and discipline the refugees as well as stopping fights with local residents.

Bangladeshi officials said free access to camps for relief agencies had created obstacles for the repatriation and have repeatedly alleged that aid workers were urging the Rohingyas not to return home.

Aid agencies contacted refused to comment on the allegations. Describing the fencing as "unrealistic," an UNHCR official at Cox's Bazar told the Daily [word indistinct] newspaper that it would not permit the use of their funds for the purpose.

"Fences simply did not work for refugees in other parts of the world. The refugees are most likely to uproot the fences and may use the iron rods as weapons," he said. The barbed wire fencing is to cost the government 3.9 million taka (100,000 U.S. dollars).

Two people have died and more than 50 were injured in the past three months in demonstrations and clashes between the refugees and locals, the mass circulation DAILY ITTEFAQ newspaper said Tuesday.

A planned voluntary repatriation of the refugees under the agreement was stalled in May as the refugees refused to return without guarantees of safety and the stand by the UNHCR that it would not be involved unless their personnel were allowed on to the Burmese side of the border.

The Rohingyas have been fleeing their homes in Burma's Arakan state since March last year alleging atrocities by Burmese troops. Rangoon has said the charges were "baseless."

Rangoon's military regime has so far refused to allow UNHCR officials to monitor the repatriation and have yet to respond to a new proposal from Dhaka that U.N. officials in Burma be allowed to check the return of the refugees.

India

U.S. Government Action on Imports 'Unjustified'

BK1407075092 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0730 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] New Delhi has conveyed to the United States that its decision to suspend duty benefits to certain Indian imports is unjustified, untimely, and unwarranted. The deputy commerce minister, Mr. Salman Khurshid, told the Rajya Sabha that the decision is likely to affect Indian products in the U.S. market. In a written reply, the minister said goods attracting relatively higher rates of tariff will become uncompetitive in the United States. Mr. Salman Khurshid also informed the house that the U.S. responded by saying that the decision can be reversed if India considers Washington's concerns on patent protection.

Satellite Launch Hailed Despite U.S. Ban

BK1307135592 Delhi All India Radio General
Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Ajay K. Ray commentary: "Indian Satellite Is Now Rushing to Space Slot"]

[Text] The two-year ban imposed by the United States under the Missile Technology Control Regime, MTCR, on Indian Space Research Organization, ISRO, has failed either to derail or stall Indian scientists' giant leap into the arena of multipurpose satellites. India's first homemade second-generation satellite INSAT-2A launched successfully by the European Space Agency from the French Guiana is heading toward accomplishing cardinal development objectives. The master control facility at Hassan in India has started carrying out orbit-raising operations and in the next few days, hopefully, the satellite would be taken up to the circular orbit at 36,000 kms and finally nudged into the 74 degree east parking slot.

INSAT-2A is the first in the series of five satellites to be built in the country by the ISRO to replace the aging

INSAT-1D, the fourth in the INSAT-1 series. It is expected that INSAT-2B, currently being integrated and tested at Bangalore, would be put into orbit by March next year, which would back up the functions of 2A satellite in order to cover the entire globe with communication facilities. Thereafter, 2-C, 2-D, and 2-E would be launched as replacements for 2-A and 2-B.

The textbook launch of INSAT-2A is rated as a landmark in India's journey toward self-reliance in satellite technology. It marks the end of dependence on imported satellites and heralds an era of communication satellites built in India itself. The earlier satellite series was custom-built to Indian specifications by the American company, Ford Aerospace, and also maneuvered to their parking slot by American scientists stationed in Bangalore.

The successful deployment and operation of INSAT-2B [B as heard] would propel India into an exclusive club of a few industrialized nations and Russia which possess the knowhow to build such satellites. These indigenous efforts have made the satellite cheaper, costing half as much its predecessor INSAT-1D, particularly at a time when the country is faced with a severe resource crunch. The total cost of placing the satellite in space was 2,020 million rupees, of which the satellite proper costs 600 million rupees. If India were to buy the satellite today from the United States, it would have cost 3,500 million rupees as the price of satellite alone.

Although indigenous to a large extent, the satellites of INSAT-2 series have been dependent on imported components bought mainly from the U.S. The ban under MTCR would not come in the way of launch of 2-B in any case as the components for its use are already in India. The progress of 2-C likely to go up some time in 1994 will be hampered by the ban.

As the ISRO Chairman Professor U.R. Rao suggested, to tide over the foreign exchange requirement of about 500 million rupees his organization would be interacting with Indian manufacturers to make full use of their capabilities to develop substitutes for every imported item. The government would reconsider the decision not to fund revamping of the SCL—Semiconductor Limited—project at Mohali which would have produced space quality chips. More so, the French electronic manufacturer, Thomson CSS, has reportedly expressed its willingness to supply the components ISRO needs for its future satellites. Items such as radiation-hardened integrated components and travelling wave tube amplifiers, both used in satellites, were being imported wholly from the U.S. Professor Rao on his way to Kourou for INSAT-2A launch had discussions with the French company on the possibilities of purchasing the components. It remains to be seen whether the French Government would give concurrence for the deal in the face of inevitable American opposition.

Irrespective of its foreign component aspect, the launch of INSAT-2A is being seen as a new milestone in space

sciences because of its unique design and kind of functions it is going to perform. It would be the first geostationary satellite ever to carry a search and rescue transponder to receive distress signals from sinking vessels, aircraft developing snags, and adventure expeditions in trouble. Presently, the worldwide service use four low-earth orbit satellites which pick up SOS signals and then transmit them to the nearest rescue centers. The rescue efforts are then set in motion locally.

Another important payload on the satellite is the Very High Resolution Radiometer, VHRR, indigenously built at a cost of only 20 million rupees as against 100 million rupees for the imported VHRR on INSAT-1 series. This will provide pictures of the cloud cover every three hours over the country. These pictures along with other information such as wind velocity in the atmosphere, sea surface temperature, and precipitation play a key role in predicting the weather over the country and also develop better mathematical prediction models.

INSAT-2A Near Geosynchronous Orbit

*BK1307150992 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1430 GMT 13 Jul 92*

[Text] The second apogee motor firing operation of the INSAT-2A satellite was successfully carried out today at 1419 this afternoon [0849 GMT]. The apogee motor firing was commanded for 806 seconds as planned from Master Control Facility at Hassan in Karnataka. According to a press note issued by the Indian Space Research Organization—ISRO—in Bangalore today this has enabled the INSAT-2A facility to reach the near geosynchronous orbit. The satellite will now remain within the radio visibility of the Master Control Facility.

Polling for Ninth Presidential Elections Ends

*BK1307124992 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1230 GMT 13 Jul 92*

[Text] Polling in the ninth presidential election ended this evening. All but 14 out of 707 parliament members exercised their franchise by the afternoon at parliament house. Four MLA's [members of legislative assembly], one each from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa who had taken permission, also cast their votes at Parliament House polling booths. Simultaneous polling took place in all the state capitals where the elected members of the legislative assemblies exercised their franchise.

Election Discussed

*BK1207080692 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0730 GMT 12 Jul 92*

[Text] All arrangements have been completed for the election of the country's ninth president tomorrow [13 July]. The polling will begin at 1000 [0430 GMT] simultaneously in the Parliament House and the state capitals. The contest is mainly between the Congress-I nominee and the vice president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, and

Professor G.G. Swell, nominated by the National Front and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]. Kaka Jogender Singh alias Dharti Pakad is in the fray as an independent. Mr. Ram Jethmalani, who had also filed his nomination papers, withdrew yesterday.

Elected members of both the houses of parliament and of state legislative assemblies form the electoral college for the presidential poll. The value of vote for each member has been fixed on the basis of the 1971 census. The value of a parliament member's vote is 702. In respect of assemblies, the value of vote varies from state to state. The lowest value of a member's vote is 7 in Sikkim and the highest 208 in Uttar Pradesh.

According to the returning officer and the secretary general of the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Sudharshan Agarwal, the counting will be taken up on Thursday the 16th morning. Tight security arrangements are being made for peaceful conduct of polling and safe preservation of ballot papers and ballot boxes.

Court Decision on Ayodhya Construction Imminent

*BK1307151192 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1430 GMT 13 Jul 92*

[Text] The home minister says prima facie he is of the opinion that the Uttar Pradesh Government has violated the court orders by permitting construction work on the acquired land at Ayodhya.

Making a statement in the Lok Sabha this evening, Mr. S.B. Chavan said the final decision of the Supreme Court will, however, be awaited. Mr. Chavan, who visited Ayodhya yesterday, told the house that he is trying to persuade the Uttar Pradesh chief minister to suspend the construction at the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed temple-mosque] complex pending a final decision of the court. The home minister assured the house that the Center will pursue these efforts and will keep a close watch on the situation.

The team of Union Ministry officials now in Uttar Pradesh today held discussions with the chief secretary and other senior officials on the Ayodhya issue in Lucknow today. As reported earlier, the team is staying back in Ayodhya to have an in-depth study of the security arrangements at the disputed complex and the ongoing construction activity.

The Allahabad High Court has rejected an application seeking a direction to Uttar Pradesh to stop further construction process at the disputed complex in Ayodhya. According to UNI, the application filed by Mohammad Azim was rejected by a majority verdict by the special bench of the court which is hearing the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid case.

State Asked To Stop Work

*BK1207060292 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 12 Jul 92*

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has advised the UP [Uttar Pradesh] chief minister to take steps to stop the on-going construction activity at the disputed site in Ayodhya until the court takes a view on the matter. He hoped that the UP government will take a reasonable view and create a proper atmosphere at Ayodhya. Mr. Chavan apprised the members of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs [CCPA] of the discussions he had with [UP Chief Minister] Mr. Kalyan Singh who met him yesterday. The CCPA met in New Delhi last evening to review the situation. According to an official spokesman, Mr. Chavan will visit Ayodhya very soon to make an on-the-spot assessment in the wake of the construction activity going on there. A team of officials led by the additional secretary of the Home Ministry, Mr. A.K. Basak, is leaving for Ayodhya this morning. The team, besides making a first-hand assessment will also study issues which have come up in relation to the work in Ayodhya.

As reported earlier, the Supreme Court yesterday declined to stay the on-going construction work at the disputed Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid complex, but made it clear that no permanent structure should be put up on the land acquired by the UP government around the complex. The court made it clear to the state government that the disputed structure should not be touched in any manner, except for the purpose of its preservation. The UP chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, told newsmen in New Delhi yesterday after his talks with the union home minister that his government is committed to give full protection to the disputed structure. He said that the on-going construction work at Ayodhya does not violate any court order.

Reaction to Commerce Minister's Resignation Noted

*BK1007161292 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 10 Jul 92*

[Text] The Congress-I has described the resignation of [Commerce Minister] Mr. P. Chidambaram from the Union Council of Ministers as in keeping with the highest traditions of the party. The spokesman of the party, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, told newsmen in New Delhi that as the company in which Mr. Chidambaram made investment is under investigation, he resigned avoiding embarrassment to the government.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] says the resignation of Mr. P. Chidambaram shows the political nexus in the securities scandal. The CPI-M politburo, in a statement in New Delhi, urged the prime minister to ensure that any other minister who has any form of involvement in the scam is also removed from his ministry. It also called for similar steps against high officials found involved to restore public confidence.

The Rajya Sabha member, Mr. P. Upendra, has said that it appears that things have stretched so far. He said mere holding of shares in a company by a minister is not a crime.

The Samajwadi Janata Party has welcomed the resignation of Mr. Chidambaram. In a statement in New Delhi today, the party general secretary, Mr. Satyaprakash Malaviya, said Mr. Chidambaram has set an example. The SJP leader demanded that the real culprits in the scam should be identified.

Rao To Hold Portfolio

*BK1107100292 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 11 Jul 92*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, will hold the additional charge of the Commerce Ministry consequent to the resignation of Mr. P. Chidambaram from the Council of Ministers. A Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] communique issued says the minister of state for industries, Professor P.J. Kurien, will assist the prime minister in addition to his own work.

Parliament Probe of Securities Scam Welcomed

*BK1007063492 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 10 Jul 92*

[Commentary by PTI special correspondent V.S. Chaudrashekhar]

[Text] The prime minister's announcement on government's readiness to set up a joint parliamentary committee to go into the security scam has not only taken the wind out of the opposition's sails, but also added a new dimension to the investigations into the massive fraud. In fact, the opposition had planned to raise the security scam as a major issue during the current monsoon session of parliament. Mr. Narasimha Rao's statement in parliament met the demand made by the opposition parties ever since the scandal broke out a couple of months ago.

The only investigation so far into the scam has been done by the committee headed by the Reserve Bank deputy governor, Mr. Janakiraman. It has pointed out among other things systems failure as one of the main causes behind the scandal. The committee also brought out the collusion of unscrupulous brokers with bank officials. The prime minister has made it clear that his desire is to unravel the truth and ensure a smooth transformation to a vibrant economy. He also said the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] inquiry and action by the special court in the matter will continue. The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, also told parliament that the government is considering the setting up of a special bureau of fraud for banks and other financial institutions. But an officially constituted committee always has certain limitations and constraints which a parliamentary committee does not face. Even the CBI investigations will

only go into the criminal conspiracy behind the manipulations and it will be beyond its scope to suggest remedial measures.

There has always been a demand from various sections, especially parliament, that the working of the banking system should be more transparent. But the Banking Regulation Act providing for maintenance of secrecy about the client's accounts acts as a deterrent against any serious examination of the financial system by an external agency. Even the demand for audit by the comptroller and auditor general has often been turned down on these grounds. So, it is only proper that a joint parliamentary committee probe this scandal which has shaken the confidence of the common man in the banking system.

Foreign Exchange Rules To Be Amended 'Soon'

BK1007155692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] Comprehensive amendments to the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act—FERA—will be introduced soon to encourage investment. The government also intends to remove more items, including some consumer goods, from the negative import list after a review. These are among the salient features of the memorandum of economic policies for the current financial year. A copy of the memorandum along with the accompanying letter to the International Monetary Fund was tabled in the Rajya Sabha today. In the memorandum, the government has set up the economic program and policies for the current financial year. During this period, the government has assured that it will refrain from imposing new restriction in payments and transfers for current international transactions and from imposing new import restrictions.

JMM Party Withdraws From National Front

BK1207061492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha—JMM [Bihar regional party]—has decided to withdraw from the National Front. This was stated by the JMM vice president, Mr. Suraj Mandal, while talking to newsmen in Patna yesterday after the party's Central Executive Committee meeting. He said his party will not take part in the ensuing presidential elections to be held tomorrow. Mr. Mandal also said that his party will decide about withdrawing support to the Bihar government only after the fourth of next month.

Punjab Amnesty Offered if Militants End Violence

BK1107140892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] The Punjab chief minister has said that if the militants give up the path of violence in the state, general amnesty will be declared. Talking to newsmen in Bhatinda today, Mr. Beant Singh said that the Army will

stay in the state as long as required. Later, addressing a mass contact program, he said that the state government has received good response from people in dealing with the problem of militancy.

Srinagar Curfew Called 'Tyrannical,' 'Provocative'

LD1007153892 Tehran IRNA in English 1229 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] Srinagar, July 10, IRNA—The administration of Jammu and Kashmir has imposed indefinite day-night curfew in Srinagar denying Muslims the right to offer Friday prayers in congregation, attend assemblies and take out processions in the sacred month of Muharram.

Justifying this the state police chief, B.S. Bedi, said, "this is being done in apprehension of breach of peace". The chief evaded explanation when his attention was drawn to the 10000 strong peaceful procession held yesterday in the town.

Leaders of various political and religious organisations expressed deep shock and anguish over the government's refusal to let people practice their religion and castigated the state's administration for curbing religious freedom of people.

Maulana 'Abbas 'Ansari, who was scheduled to lead the procession, called the state's decision as unwarranted, tyrannical, and provocative. He, however, appealed to the people not to lose heart and exercise restraint.

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), Hizbul Mujahideen, al-Omar and other frontline militant groups condemned the clamping of curfew in the town and described this as gross interference in religious matters of Muslims.

Citizens of adjoining towns of Badgam, Patan and Sonawari observed a day of general strike in protest against the ban orders in Srinagar.

People no largely feel that the 'Ashura' procession scheduled for the 12th of July may not be allowed [as received].

Significantly, a top Shia alim, yesterday, had declared that the 'Ashura' procession would be taken out irrespective of what the government decides.

Observers feel that the already trouble torn valley may witness gross violence if matters start precipitating and people decide to violate prohibitory orders and come out in large numbers on 'Ashura'.

This would be the fourth successive year when prohibitory orders were clamped on 'Ashura' in Srinagar and Muslims of the valley were denied to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (peace be upon him).

Iran

Khamene'i on 'Propagation of Virtue,' Nuclear Arms
LD1307144592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic
Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1018 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to the commanders of the Basij mobilization corps in Tehran on 13 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] If there is a disease that can transform a society led by the prophet of Islam and the Commander of the Believers [Imam Ali, first Shiite imam] in a matter of a few decades, that illness is very dangerous [reference to the killing of Imam Husayn by Yazid of the Umayyads]. We must fear that illness. Our great imam's pride was his understanding of the rules of the prophet and their implementation and propagation. Imagine the difference between the imam and the prophet himself. Society was built by the prophet, and after a few years it fell into that state. Our society must take care so it is not infected by that disease. This is the lesson we must learn. We must recognize that disease. We must understand how dangerous it is. We must be aware of the disease. I believe this 'Ashura lesson is more pressing for us than any other 'Ashura lesson, pain, or message. [passage omitted]

Two elements are the primary factors in this losing of the way and public deviation. One moves away from God's thoughts, as symbolized in prayer, forgetting God and spiritualism, and separating spiritualism from daily life. [passage omitted] The second is following lust, materialism, in other words. Thinking of accumulating wealth and giving in to the world's lustful ways and forgetting our aspirations is the main, huge, problem. We may also be infected by this problem. [passage omitted]

The Islamic system comes into being and progresses through faith, hard work and keeping the slogans alive. When Godly aspirations are changed, those who are more materialist, more lustful, and more clever in achieving personal interests will take over. Those who care must not allow holy aspirations to change in the society. [passage omitted]

Our revolution's task was to stand up against all the wrong values of the materialist world and to change them. The world today is one of lies, force, lust and preferring materialist values to spiritual ones. This is the world today.

This is not necessarily anything new in our times. Spirituality has been going downhill and becoming weak for centuries. Those who held power endeavored to eliminate spirituality; money worshippers and capitalists also tried. They designed and laid down a materialistic system and apparatus that is headed by a power like America, which is more of a liar than anyone else, more devious, more indifferent to human virtues, and more merciless toward humankind. In all of this, America is in

the lead. The rest follow suit in accordance with their rank. So, this is the state of the world.

The Islamic revolution means the renewed revival of Islam. [passage omitted] If the materialistic world order is to prevail, it will evidently also place such lust-seeking, corrupt, disgraced and misleading people as Mohammad Reza at the head of affairs. A person of shining virtues has to be in jail or in exile. Under such circumstances, the imam's place is not in society. When force is the rule of the day, when corruption, lies and unprincipled behavior are the rule of the day, that person who possesses excellence, earnestness, knowledge, faith and holiness only has a place in jail, the slaughter house, or on the sacrificial altar. His place is in the slaughter house pits.

When a person such as the imam takes over affairs, it means that a leaf has been turned; it means that lust-seeking becomes isolated; materialism, dependency, and corruption become isolated; and, instead, piety becomes dominant; asceticism, purity, holiness, struggle, consideration for others, mercy, integrity, fraternity, self-sacrifice and devotion become dominant. When an imam takes over affairs, these are the qualities and values that come with him and matter. Very well, if you safeguard these values, the imamate order will survive, and it is then that the likes of Imam Hoseyn, son of Ali—God's mercy be upon him—will not be taken to be sacrificed at the altar.

But what if we lose these values? If we lose the spirit of the Basij, if instead of considering our duty, responsibility and divine ideals we think of our personal luxuries; if we snub the pious and earnest Basiji youths—who want nothing but a battlefield on which to fight for God—and instead bring forward cheeky, excessive, greedy, insincere and spiritless individuals, there would be an upheaval.

If there was a gap of 50 years between the death of the great prophet and the martyrdom of his beloved grandson in the early days of Islam, such a gap would be much smaller in our time. Our wisdom and wise men would be slaughtered much sooner. We must not allow that. We must resist such a deviation that the enemy may impose on us. [crowd chants: "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to America," "Death to Israel," "Death to hypocrites"] We must learn the lesson of 'Ashura. We must not let the spirit and offspring of the revolution be isolated in society.

Some people were mistaken about the issues. Today, thank God, sincere and dedicated officials and a revolutionary and pious president are in charge, and they wish to rebuild the country. But some people mistook constructiveness for materialism. [passage omitted]

For long years, brothers and sisters, our country was being ruined. After the revolution, it was continued for eight years through foreign invaders. Is it a joke? It must be rebuilt. Reconstruction needs effort. It is about three years since the end of the war; it is not long. If a bomb falls on a place the destruction is momentary. But how

long would it take to rebuild what was damaged? [passage omitted] For eight years they destroyed the country. Is it a joke?

Before that, it was the cursed Pahlavi dynasty. God's curse be on them, their officials and accomplices, and God's curse be on the Qajar dynasty and their accomplices. For many years they ruined the country. Then the revolution came to rebuild it, but the enemies could not tolerate that. Only today the evidence of America's collaboration with Iraq in the war is coming to light. In those days we kept saying emphatically that the East and the West support Iraq. A number of our own short-sighted people denied that and asked for proof. Here is the proof. Today, the Americans themselves are exposing the proof that shows what huge assistance they gave Iraq in those years. The East and the West joined forces and started the war and destroyed the country. [passage omitted]

The enemy tries to steal our youngsters from us by spreading an incorrect culture, a culture of corruption and promiscuity. The enemy's cultural action should not be described as a mere cultural attack; it is a cultural night raid, a cultural act of plunder, a cultural massacre. That is what the enemy is doing to us today. Who can defend our virtues? That faithful youth who has not set his heart on the material goods of this world, who is not egotistic and who can stand up and defend virtue. The one who is corrupt himself is obviously not capable of defending virtue. It is that faithful youngster who can defend the revolution, Islam and Islamic virtues and values.

I therefore asked some time ago that everyone should engage in the propagation of virtue and the prohibition of vice. Let me repeat it again: Propagate virtue! That is a duty. It is your religious duty. Today, it is also your revolutionary and political duty. [crowd chants: "Death to America," "Death to hypocrites," "Death to Israel"]

People write letters to me...[crowd interrupts with chants of: "Khamene'i is the leader of the free," "We are at your command," "We are ready"] some people write to me—some people telephone—saying: We try to prohibit the forbidden, but the official authorities do not side with us; they take the opposing side. Let me say this: They do not have that right. Official authorities, be they law enforcement officials or judicial officials, do not have the right to defend an offender. [crowd chants in support] They must defend the promoter of religious commands. All our government institutions must defend the one who promotes virtue and discourages vice. That is a duty.

If someone prays and another attacks him, which one must our institutions defend? The one who is praying or the one who tries to undermine him? It is exactly the same when someone is propagating virtue and prohibiting vice. Propagating virtue is the same as prayer. It is a duty. [passage omitted] Propagating virtue and prohibiting vice, in its general and overall sense, is even higher

than jihad. It strengthens the foundations of religion. It lays the foundation for jihad. Is it possible for our officials to equate those who propagate virtue and prohibit vice with others, let alone defend others against them?

Naturally, the hezbollahi youth must be astute. He must keep his eyes open and not allow anyone to infiltrate his ranks and perpetrate corruption in the name of propagating virtue and prohibiting vice in order to destroy hezbollah's image. You must be wary. This is your responsibility. I am certain, and the experiences of these past years have also shown that the moment the devout and hezbollahi forces enter the scene to perform a task, a number of impostors and bogus elements initiate some sort of vice somewhere, in their name, so as to distort the officials' impression of the devout hezbollahi and popular forces.

Beware! The principle of propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice is like the prayers; it must be learned. Where and how should one propagate virtue and prohibit vice? Of course, I say now, as I have said before, that in Islamic society the people are obliged to enforce the principle of the propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice orally. Once a case leads to confrontation, it becomes a duty for the officials, who must interfere and enforce it the propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice orally, which is more important. What helps reform society is this very oral prohibition of vice. That corrupt and dishonest person who perpetrates obscene acts and who wants to render indecency as sinless should be admonished by the people by 10, 100 or 1,000 people until public opinion weighs heavily on his being and his mind; that would be more crushing than anything else. [passage omitted]

The hezbollahi forces are the country's main force. The Islamic system is dependent on this force. If this huge force, the people, this great, indestructible popular force, stands by the authorities, is behind the authorities—and God be praised, it is—no power can stand up to the Islamic Republic. That is what our enemies are afraid of. For some time now, international propaganda, American and Zionist loudspeakers have been accusing the Islamic Republic of Iran of militarism, of increasing its weapons, saying: They have weapons of mass destruction; they are making atomic weapons; they have purchased atomic warheads [kolahak] from such-and-such a place, remarks which—if any intelligent person thinks about it—are obviously false.

Is the atomic bomb something that can be taken quietly from one country to another? That is obviously a lie. They know it is a lie. They spread rumors, so that they can present the Islamic system as a system that opposes the establishment of peace in the world. That is one of the vicious measures being taken by the United States and by the Zionists.

Let me tell them this: You are making a mistake. You are mistaken if you think that the Islamic Republic's

strength lies in obtaining or manufacturing an atomic bomb. That is not the case. If that were the case, if it were the case that the Islamic Republic wanted to make an atomic bomb...[changes thought] but the big powers have hundreds of them. If it were possible for one person to defeat another with atomic bombs, the United States, the former Soviet Union and other vicious powers of the world would have defeated the Islamic Republic of Iran 100 times over by now. That which gives strength to a system is not the atomic bomb.

The power of the Islamic system—which has meant that the United States, the former Soviet Union and the other small and large powers of the world have so far been unable to confront us and will not be able to do so in the future—is the power of faith of the hezbollahi forces. [crowd chants in support]

The Islamic Republic must preserve this force. It must preserve this huge power. You youngsters must always remain on the stage. You must constantly show that the Islamic Republic is invincible. Faithful, Basij, hezbollahi forces throughout the country: every single faithful person must completely rob the United States, the Zionists and all other enemies of the hope of defeating the Islamic Republic. [crowd chants in support]

We hope, God willing, that God will protect you faithful, selfless and pious youngsters, and, God willing, the pure heart of the Lord of the Age, may our souls be sacrificed to him, is pleased with all of you. And, God willing, with your presence and with the power of your faith, all the conspiracies and ploys of the enemy will be foiled. [crowd chants in support]

President Meets With New Vatican Ambassador

LD1307105892 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
0930 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Excerpts] This morning, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received the credentials of Mr. Romeo Panchi Roli, the new Vatican ambassador to our country. [passage omitted]

The president—emphasizing the Islamic Republic of Iran's humanitarian initiatives toward resolving the clashes between Muslims and non-Muslims in Karabakh and Bosnia-Herzegovina—expressed the hope that cooperation between the pope and the Christian community on resolving these clashes would serve as a good introduction to increasing cooperation between Muslims and Christians.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Vatican ambassador, having expressed his pleasure with his new mission, stated: I was sent to Iran to discuss the efforts made by Pope John Paul II, in terms of world issues, and to convey his request for cooperation and an exchange of views on these issues with your excellency.

Israeli Nuclear Policy Cited in Protest Note

NC1407071192 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
0230 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Dr. Reza Amrollahi, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran who is also vice president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, sent a message to the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency stating that the Zionist regime is overtly following an aggressive nuclear policy and is the greatest danger to regional and international peace.

In his message, which was disseminated yesterday, Dr. Amrollahi stated that the world should not remain indifferent to Tel Aviv's policies, adding: The usurper Jerusalem regime did not sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the arms limitation treaty as other countries did, and it still refrains from doing so. The international community should decisively combat the warmongering policies of the usurper Jerusalem regime.

Journalist Views Improving Afghan Media Coverage

NC1007090692 *Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian*
22 Jun 92 p 3

["Exclusive" interview with Mohammad 'Alam Izadyar, head of the BAKHTAR foreign news department, by an unidentified staff correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] [JAHAN-E ESLAM] What is the state of the mass media in Afghanistan? How many radio, television channels, and newspapers do you have?

[Izadyar] I want to thank my brothers at the JAHAN-E ESLAM newspaper for covering Afghanistan very comprehensively and I should add that the Afghan nation is indebted to the Islamic revolution of Iran for inspiring victory.

On the mass media in Afghanistan, I should say that the former Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan was not only a military one but was also a cultural onslaught that included imposing and supervising its authority on the mass media in such a way that they were completely affiliated with the Soviet Union. Censorship of the newspapers and the BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY severed links with the provinces of Afghanistan, because news BAKHTAR sent to the provinces had to be transmitted first to Moscow, where it passed through the filter of Moscow's censorship before being retransmitted to Kabul. This hampered transmitting news.

During the occupation of Afghanistan, radio and television presented deviant programs that were contrary to Islam and the people's customs and traditions. They sought to impose the communist culture on Afghanistan by disseminating such programs and set out to destroy the Afghan people's culture and identity by showing immoral, risqué films that are not Islamic.

As for the inadequacy of the mass media in Afghanistan, I should say that it has only one network and two newspapers in Kabul, "ANIS" and "HEYWAD," which are published in Dari and Pashto respectively.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] Could you elaborate on the differences among the factions in Afghanistan?

[Izadyar] There is no major difference among the factions and the high-level agreements that have been reached suggest elections will be held on 30 June.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] What is the status of the Shiite Wahdat-e Eslami party in Afghanistan?

[Izadyar] I should say that the Shiites are also part of the Afghan nation and, like all others, their opinion is to be respected. They can share power in proportion to their influence in Afghanistan and their influence among the people will become clearer after the elections.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] What harm do news imperialism and the Western news monopoly do the Muslim countries?

[Izadyar] A lot. If we do not have reliable news sources we will be forced to use the news reports disseminated by the greater powers, reports that are tailored to their own objectives. It is also costly. We pay AFP in Afghanistan \$1,500 a month to receive news reports, and this is a burden for us. More important is that the larger Western news agencies present the news in such a way that it harms the interests of Islamic countries.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] What do you think about the cooperation among Nonaligned Movement member countries?

[Izadyar] If the nonaligned countries pooled their resources and gave the news sources coverage they could break this monopoly. We should never expect Western news sources to present news realistically. They are out to satisfy their own interests and these conflict with those of the Muslim and developing countries. Now that the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan has succeeded, they are seeking to distort people's impressions of the long-suffering Muslim Afghan nation.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] How do you view the Nonaligned Movement News Agency Pool [NANAP] conference currently being held in Tehran?

[Izadyar] It was superbly organized, and we are very satisfied. We think it will yield positive results.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] Does IRNA, the Iranian news agency, transmit news to Afghanistan right now?

[Izadyar] It doesn't transmit its news to us, but we plan to sign a cooperation agreement with IRNA soon.

Daily Views Noninterference in Afghan Affairs
LD1207095992 Tehran IRNA in English 0823 GMT
12 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—A morning daily Sunday emphasised on Iran's policy of non-interference in

internal affairs of Afghanistan adding that the interference of any foreign country will lead Afghanistan towards civil war.

The English language "TEHRAN TIMES" editorializing on the recent remarks of Afghan premier that foreign countries were involved in the internal affairs, said: "'Abdolsabur Farid's complaints in fact reflect to some extent the realities prevailing in Afghanistan."

As an example the daily mentioned that the Hezb-e Eslame Party to which the prime minister himself belongs is under the influence of Pakistan's Security Intelligence Service (SIS).

"...It is even said that the party's military advisors are members of SIS. In fact some political observers believe that (Hizb chief Golboddin) Hekmatyar's previous discord with other Mujahideen groups derived from disagreements between SIS and members of the Pakistan Cabinet who did not approve of Hekmatyar's assumption of powerful positions," it noted.

"But as for Iran's relations with the state of affairs in Afghanistan," said the daily, "it is worth noting that Iran is the only country that gave shelter to over two and half million Afghan refugees without receiving any financial assistance from the international organizations."

It also noted that Iran, despite its involvement in the eight year Iraqi war, never withheld financial or military aid to the mujahideen and "at a time when the West and other countries supporting the mujahideen, met with Moscow's communist leaders in Geneva for arbitrary settlement of Afghanistan's future, Iran refused to attend the negotiating table at which the mujahideen were not present."

The Afghan issue, said the daily, "is closely linked with Iran's national security," and cited President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani as saying that Iran's policy vis-a-vis its eastern neighbour was based on the principle of non-interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

"In support of wisdom of such a policy it has to be emphasised that interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan will have no result other than precipitating that country to the verge of a civil war," concluded the editorial.

French Health Minister Cited on Kurdish Autonomy
NC1007060192 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian
Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Dear listeners: As you heard on our 1615 newscast on Monday 4 July, Danielle Mitterrand, wife of the French president and head of the France Liberte Foundation, arrived in Shaqlawah in Irbil province in Iraqi Kurdistan to learn how humanitarian assistance is being distributed among Iraqi Kurdish refugees. According to a preplanned program, Mitterrand and her party also visited the headquarters of the Democratic

Party of Kordestan of Iran [DPK], where they were welcomed by a high-ranking party delegation and officials of the political forces of Iraqi Kurdistan. On Sunday 5 July the DPK received the party at DPK headquarters in Raniyah city in the Sulaymaniyah province of Iraqi Kurdistan.

At 1430 Tehran time on Sunday the dear French guests arrived in Raniyah and were welcomed by the DPK Leadership Council headed by combatant comrade DPK Deputy Chairman Mostafa Hejri. [passage omitted]

Bernard Kouchner, French minister of health and deputy prime minister for humanitarian action, stated in his remarks: [Begin Kouchner recording in French, fading into Persian translation] I am only accompanying Mrs. Mitterrand and am proud to be able to do so. I know the Kurds of Iran have many problems. The French Government openly supports every democratic movement, past and present, successful or not. How can we stand under a picture of Dr. Qasemlu, who was our friend, and not recall his logical slogan of democracy for Iran and autonomy for Kordestan?

The French Government and people support this slogan until the day it is fulfilled and the ray of democracy shines on Iranian Kordestan. The voice of dictatorship, oppression, arbitrariness, suppression, and massacre should be stifled in every country. It is the Kurdish nation's duty to move along this path and establish democracy as a necessity.

The Kurds' first duty is to establish fraternity and unity among themselves. This was the directive Dr. Qasemlu issued. [end recording]

Dr. Kouchner continued: Last week I met your cocombatants in Paris and am happy to meet you here today. We regret that Qasemlu is not among us. In that great man's memory I renew the French Government's pledge that France will support any struggle for freedom wherever it may be. Francois Mitterrand, whose wife is here today, can keep this promise.

You remember Dr. Qasemlu repeatedly stating: Not enough attention is paid to us and we are not known because we do not resort to terrorism and hijacking. They do not pay attention to us because we are democrats and do not want to establish democracy through undemocratic means.

We who are here assure you and emphasize that most French people support you and will not forget you. Our presence here proves this. Of course we do not doubt your efforts to achieve liberty, to ensure human rights, and to solve the Kurdish problem.

Answering Dr. Kouchner, DPK Deputy Chairman Mostafa Hejri stated: We thank Dr. Kouchner. We thank him for his past stances. It is as if his remarks are uttered by a Kurd. This shows that Dr. Kouchner and his colleagues understand the Kurdish people's sufferings. We consider them our close friends. There are many

sweet memories of his friendly relations with Dr. Qasemlu. While he may not be among us today we are happy he had such friends who cooperate with us and who tell the world about the Kurdish problem. We hope that we, Dr. Qasemlu's students, can strive to fulfill democracy and autonomy.

The welcoming ceremony was followed by official talks between Mitterrand and her party and the DPK delegation. After a meal at 1700, party comrades warmly saw the visitors off on their way to Sulaymaniyah.

Commentary Urges Reexamination of Airbus Attack

NC1007110892 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
5 Jul 92 p 2

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Text] Four years after the U.S. military attack on the Iranian airbus and the martyrdom of 290 passengers in July 1988, new facts about the events behind the scene of the catastrophe are being disclosed by the American media.

Naturally, on the eve of the American presidential elections what is most important for different political factions in the U.S. is not telling the truth but how the disclosure of facts can serve their own sectarian interests. In fact, it is one of the glaring weaknesses of the Western democracies that although unlike the totalitarian states they do not hide the truth, they divulge it at the wrong time and without regard to the value of truthfulness.

As it is, after the outrageous U.S. criminal act, which was perpetrated in violation of all international laws and regulations, the American media tried to downplay the tragic magnitude of the incident. But after the bombing of a Pan American aircraft in Scotland in December 1988, the American media, instigated by unknown motives, established a connection between the two air accidents, and unfairly accused Iran of having had a hand in the Pan Am incident. In part, this was an effort to appease the guilt feeling in the American public opinion.

At all events it is up to the international organizations to respond to the report of research carried out by the ABC Network and NEWSWEEK magazine. One wonders why the UN Security Council, which is so adept at issuing resolutions against Libya on dubious documents produced by the U.S. and Britain, and even deprives the Muslim people of Libya of the right of the pilgrimage to Mecca, has kept silent about the recent disclosures.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry should request a fresh examination of the tragic incident based on new evidences that have come to light.

It may be argued that in view of the constituent members of the Security Council, Iran stands very little chance of victory at the Security Council. But it should be pointed out that such a request by Iran would face the Security

Council with two alternatives; either the Council acknowledges Iran's rightful demand under pressure of the international public opinion, in which case Iran will win a clear victory. Or the Security Council will surrender to the American pressure and will refuse to put Iran's request on the agenda, in which case Iran will again emerge victorious, for she will have exposed the insincere and hypocritical nature of UN resolutions before the world public opinion.

Nepal & Bhutan

Premier Wants 55,000 Bhutanese Refugees To Return

BK1007080692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0541 GMT
10 Jul 92

[Text] Kathmandu, July 10 (AFP)—Nepal's Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has reiterated his desire that 55,000 Bhutanese refugees of Nepalese origin in Nepal return to Bhutan.

Speaking to parliament Thursday about the Bhutanese refugees in Nepal, Koirala said: "What we want is that the Bhutanese refugees should have an opportunity to return to their homes with honour."

In response to the question concerning the Nepalese Government's indifference to the democratic movement in Bhutan, the prime minister said: "Bhutan's democratic movement is the movement of the Bhutanese people, the Nepalese Government acts in conformity with the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of any country."

"We want to see democracy and human rights flourish all over the world," he said.

On Tuesday the prime minister said he would send a delegate to Bhutan to seek a diplomatic solution to the refugee problem, one he described as a "grave and serious problem faced by Nepal."

Bhutanese Government contends that many of the refugees are Nepalese who have returned from northern India.

Government Unveils \$7.9 Billion Budget

BK1107021892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0205 GMT
11 Jul 92

[Text] Kathmandu, July 11 (AFP)—The Nepalese Government has unveiled a development-oriented 33.59 billion rupee (7.9 billion dollar) for the 1992-93 fiscal year that begins next Thursday.

Minister of State for Finance Mahesh Acharya tabled the budget, which depends heavily on foreign grants and loans, during a joint session of both houses of parliament Friday.

The budget allocates almost two thirds of estimated state expenditures for development, and "foreign loans and grants meet 69 percent of the development expenditure," Acharya said.

The budget presentation, broadcast live on state television and radio, has earmarked 11.99 billion rupees (2.82 billion dollars) for regular government expenditure.

This includes defence, police, judicial services, school, college and university teachers' salaries, pensions and gratuities.

Spending for defence and police was set at 3.08 billion rupees, or 25.6 percent of all regular expenditures.

Of the total set aside for development, 3.55 billion rupees (82.35 million dollars) has been allocated for education, followed by 3.37 billion rupees (79.3 million dollars) for transport and public works including roads and bridge construction.

Some 2.26 billion rupees (53.17 million dollars) are earmarked for agriculture, 2.05 billion rupees (48.23 million dollars) for irrigation, 2.71 billion rupees (63.76 million dollars) for electric development programs and 1.21 billion rupees (28.48 million dollars) for drinking water projects.

On the revenue side, excise duties on cigarettes, beer and light liquors was increased.

The embarkation tax for foreigners and Nepalese leaving the country rose 33 percent to 600 rupees (14.11 dollars), or 500 rupees (11.70 dollars) for those travelling to South Asian nations.

In order to facilitate the public and tourist transport services, duties on sedan cars and other conveyance vehicles imported by registered taxi or public transport series will be eligible for a 50 percent tax allowance.

The same benefit is being extended to registered travel agencies importing one air-conditioned bus each.

"Of the total budget estimation, 21.59 billion rupees (5.08 billion dollars) has been allocated for the development expenditure alone which will be disbursed through the recently-elected local village and town council members," Acharya stated in his budget speech.

Acharya said: "The cardinal aspects of the fiscal 1992-93 budget include timely completion of the development projects, thereby enhancing their effectiveness in the public interest."

"Strengthening of the local organisation geared to rural development through administrative decentralisation is the second priority of the budget proposals," he said.

"The third is the administrative reform to make the government machinery efficient, clean and accountable to the people," he added.

"Continuous development and expansion of modern and dynamic sectors is one of the main objectives of the new budget proposals," he said.

"Similarly, intensive and commercial development and extension of viable traditional activities to enhance market mechanism, self-reliant and sustainable development of commercially viable production sectors and relief and support for the sustenance of life in the remote areas with limited physical resources and potentials are the other aims of the 1992-93 budget," he maintained.

To Boost Private Sector

BK1207043192 Hong Kong AFP in English 1613 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] Kathmandu, July 11 (AFP)—Nepal's budget for the 1992-1993 fiscal year is aimed at providing opportunities for the private sector in the industrial development of the country, Minister of State for Finance Mahesh Acharya said Saturday.

Speaking to reporters following the unveiling of his budget Friday, Acharya said the government had started the process of handing over three state-run factories to private business.

The three—a brick and tile factory, a paper works and a leather and shoe factory—had all been financed and established by China under a bilateral aid programme, but they were running at a loss because of poor management, economic planners said.

"When the ownership or management of these factories is transferred to private entrepreneurs, the interest of the employees and workers of the respective factories will be safeguarded," Acharya said.

"We are thinking of transferring at least 20 more factories now under state management," he added.

Nepal's budget for the next fiscal year, which starts July 16, is market-oriented with an emphasis on rural development, which has been allocated 70 percent, or 21.59 billion rupees (5.08 billion dollars), of total state expenditure, he said.

Completion of development projects was a top project, he said, adding, "If projects are completed on time with a proper utilization of public funds, the officials concerned will be rewarded. But if anything goes wrong due to negligence by an official, he or she will be penalized."

"We want to implement the new budget for 1992-1993 through administrative reforms and controlling corruption and revenue leakage," he said.

A shortfall in agricultural production had had a bad impact on the Nepalese economy resulting in a growth in gross domestic product (GDP) of only 3.1 percent, just one percent higher than the country's population growth, he said.

"Food production fell by 5.5 percent during the 1991-1992 fiscal year," he said, maintaining, however, that non-agricultural output increased by seven percent.

To make the Nepalese currency fully convertible in the near future, the government has provided facilities to exporters and other foreign currency earners to surrender only 25 percent of their foreign currency earnings to the state bank, he said.

He identified the government's failure to control Nepal's double-digit inflation as one of its fares, attributing its underlying causes to the international situation, the devaluation of the rupee and the low agricultural output.

Pakistan

Sharif Agreeable to Observers at Kashmir Border

BK1107120692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has assured Pakistan's active participation in the forthcoming summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] in Dhaka to make it more effective. In an interview with DAILY STAR of Dhaka, the prime minister emphasized that SAARC needed to be more effective and assured Pakistan's support for any move in this direction. He predicted that there would be a breakthrough in SAARC at the summit.

Replying to a question on India-Pakistan relations, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif regretted that there was constant tension between them. Without the resolution of Kashmir issue, relations will not improve. The prime minister declared Pakistan's willingness to accept neutral international observers at the Line of Control to allay Indian suspicions of Pakistan's support to freedom fighters in occupied Kashmir.

Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif also expressed his keen interest in the forthcoming visit of Bangladeshi Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to Pakistan next month. He said the visit will further improve the very close and brotherly relations between the two countries. He said Pakistan will enhance trade, encourage joint ventures, and buy more goods from Bangladesh to reduce the imbalance in bilateral trade.

Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Pays Official Visit

Calls on Sharif

BK1307145492 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] The foreign minister of Bangladesh, Mr. Mustafizur Rahman, called on the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, in Murree today. He remained with the prime minister for some time and discussed matters of bilateral interest. He briefed the prime minister about the coming visit of the prime

minister of Bangladesh, Mrs. Khaleda Zia, next month. The prime minister told the foreign minister of Bangladesh that the government and the people of Pakistan are looking forward to the visit of the prime minister of Bangladesh.

Prime Minister To Visit 9-11 Aug

*BK1107120092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in English 1100 GMT 11 Jul 92*

[Text] The visiting foreign minister of Bangladesh, Mr. A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman, had a meeting with the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, in Islamabad today. They discussed bilateral relations, SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], regional issues, and international developments. During the talks, dates for the visit of the Bangladeshi prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, to Pakistan were also finalized. She will be visiting Pakistan from the 9th to the 11th of next month at the invitation of the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. The minister of state reiterated to his Bangladeshi counterpart the commitment of the government and people of Pakistan to expand and strengthen relations between the two countries in all fields.

Meets Khan, Departs 13 Jul

*BK1307161892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Jul 92*

[Text] Pakistan and Bangladesh are expected to sign agreements on the promotion of cooperation in trade and science during the Bangladeshi prime minister's visit to Pakistan beginning 9 August. This was stated by Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman while talking to newsmen at the end of his visit to Pakistan at Islamabad Airport this afternoon. He expressed complete satisfaction at the outcome of his talks with the Pakistani leaders and said that the two countries hold identical views on various issues. He emphasized further promotion of cooperation in the field of science and exchange of students. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, who saw the Bangladeshi foreign minister off, said that we exchanged views on spheres in which the two countries can benefit from each other.

The Bangladeshi foreign minister called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today during which they held talks on boosting bilateral ties. Views were also exchanged on further promotion of trade ties both on the bilateral level and under the framework of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. Referring to Bangladeshi Premier Khaleda Zia's forthcoming visit to Pakistan, the president expressed the hope that her visit will open up new avenues of cooperation between the two countries in all fields. The Bangladeshi foreign minister also called on Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif in Murree and briefed him on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's visit to Pakistan next month.

Sharif Receives Former Afghan President 13 Jul

*BK1307150092 Islamabad PTV Television Network
in English 1400 GMT 13 Jul 92*

[Text] The former president of Afghanistan, Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, called on the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, in Murree today. They discussed matters of mutual interest. The prime minister expressed satisfaction that the Peshawar accord was progressing well and soon peace and normalcy would return to Afghanistan. The prime minister appreciated the efforts of Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi regarding implementation of the Peshawar accord.

Uzbek Delegation Arrives To Discuss Cooperation

*BK1407054192 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Jul 92*

[Text] Uzbekistan attaches great importance to its relations with Pakistan, according to top priority. This was stated by the leader of the nine-member Uzbek delegation, (Rustam Yunisov), while talking to newsmen on his arrival at Islamabad Airport. The delegation has come on a week's visit to Pakistan. (Yunisov), who is the minister for highways, said the delegation will assess the prospects for cooperation in the fields of railways, roads, automobiles, transport, telecommunications, energy, and banking. He added that his country desires a road link between Pakistan and Uzbekistan to help bring the two countries still closer and establish strong traditional ties.

Shiites, Sunnis Clash in Peshawar

*BK1307002492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1829 GMT
12 Jul 92*

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, July 12 (AFP)—At least nine people were killed and dozens injured as sectarian violence broke out in several Pakistani cities during a Shiite procession Sunday, police sources said.

Seven people were killed and 13 injured in this north-western Pakistani city when militants of both minority Shiites and the majority Sunni Muslims traded fire with automatic weapons, they said.

The trouble here erupted when a Shiite procession, marking the martyrdom of Imam Husayn, grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, was passing a Sunni dominated area.

Police said some "miscreants" mingled in the procession allegedly invaded a Sunni mosque and torched prayer mats and other sacred Islamic books.

Infuriated students belonging to a Sunni extremist group Anjuman Sipah-e-Sahaba (ASSP) opened fire which Shiite militants returned, resulting in casualties on both sides.

Police said three Shiites and three Sunnis died while the body of the seventh victim was yet to be identified.

Two more ASSP activists were killed and seven injured when rival groups exchanged fire at Uchh Sharif near Bahawalpur in central Pakistan's Punjab Province, police said.

Clashes took place at some other places also causing unspecified casualties, reports reaching here said. Official details were not immediately available.

Sources said the Shiite processionists became violent when Sunni militants tried to obstruct their route.

Firing was also reported in another Punjab city of Vehari where at least four people received bullet wounds, police said.

Shiite Muslims in thousands paraded in the main roads in virtually every city and town of the country on Ashura, the martyrdom of Imam Husayn every year on the 10th of the Islamic lunar calendar's first month of Moharram.

Communal clashes often take place on disputes over the route of the Shiite processions as Sunnis oppose public expression of grief.

The authorities this year had taken extra-ordinary measures including deployment of troops after reports that "foreign agents had infiltrated" to trigger communal violence.

Tensions were already high between Shiite groups and the extremist ASSP which calls for declaring Shiite as non believers. More than two dozen religious leaders of

the rival sects have been murdered in different Pakistani cities in the past two months.

Police overnight defused two time-bombs in the industrial Punjab city of Gujranwala.

They said said the bombs each containing 15 pounds (seven kilograms) of explosive were placed in a wooden box under a butcher's cabin in the usually crowded vegetable market. The explosions could have caused "horrifying" destruction.

Officials blamed unidentified "foreign agents" for planting the bomb to ignite sectarian rioting in the country.

Police also blamed the firing in the relatively tension-free Peshawar on "saboteurs" as the two communities have traditionally maintained good relations. They are partners in business and many families have inter-community marriages, they said.

Security was tight throughout the country and troops were deployed in major cities while several traditional trouble spots were placed under curfew.

Sources said restrictions were relaxed to enable Shiites to carry out their processions while members of the rival sect were ordered indoors in sensitive districts.

Riot-ready police equipped with batons, shields and tear gas cannisters accompanied the Shiites in many places. Plainclothed army and police commandos also joined the marchers.